

The Middlebury Campus

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Students Discuss Appropriation, Race

By Philip Bohlman
News Editor

On Monday, Nov. 30, Interim Chief Diversity Officer Miguel A. Fernández and Associate Professor of American Studies Roberto Lint Sagarena, also Director for the Center for Comparative Study of Race and Ethnicity, hosted a town hall discussion in Dana Auditorium. The discussion was focused on cultural appropriation, the need for a respectful and mindful community and the need for students to be educated about race, culture and history.

Fernández acknowledged in his email to the College that an impetus for the discussion was an incident in which a white student wearing a sombrero in Proctor dining hall offended a Latino student.

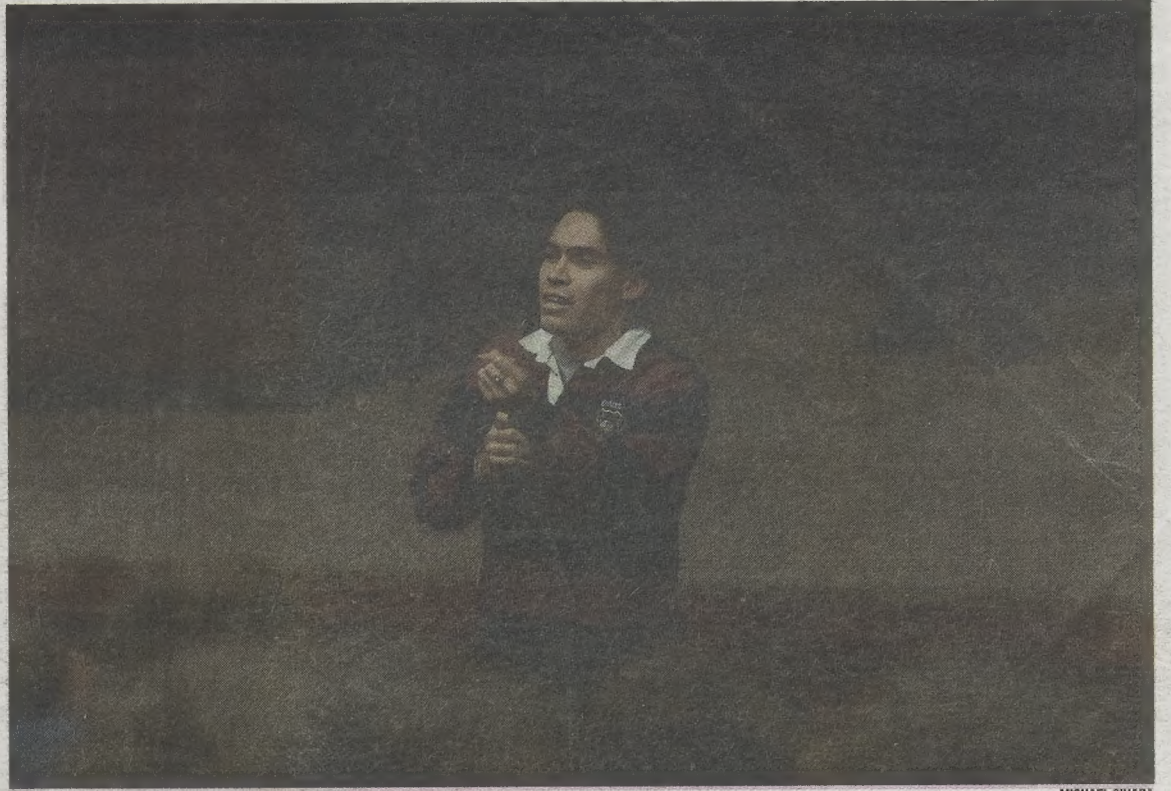
But cultural appropriation and racial insensitivity has been at the forefront of campus conversation since Halloween — a social media campaign against culturally appropriating costumes, the performance of Felly, a white rapper, at

the College on Friday, and as Fernández noted, the anti-latino and anti-muslim rhetoric of Republican primary candidates, most notably Donald Trump.

"Some of you will be oblivious to what I am about to discuss and others of you will have read or participated in social media discussions over the weekend about sombreros and cultural appropriation," Fernández wrote. "Much of the discussion took a very negative turn, showing intolerance, misunderstanding and discrimination."

The meeting began with an examination of what cultural appropriation is (when a culture adopts elements of another culture) and when it becomes offensive. One student asked whether the administration had a position on the acceptability of cultural appropriation. In response, Fernández cited the College's community standards. The handbook calls for both "cultivating respect and responsibility for self, others and our shared environment" and "fostering a diverse and inclusive

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MICHAEL O'HARA

Nicolas Mendia '16 describes his experience confronting the student wearing the sombrero in Proctor at the meeting on Mon., Nov. 30. To read his full transcript, see Page 6.

New Framework Tackles Stress

By Eliza Teach
News Editor

In an effort to alleviate student stress and promote mental health at the College, several administrators are working to develop a multi-faceted plan to build community and resilience, promote mind-body well-being, increase diversity and foster inclusivity. Vice President for Student Affairs and Dean of the College Katy Smith Abbott, Vice President for Academic Affairs and Dean of the Faculty Andrea Lloyd and Professor of Spanish and Interim Chief Diversity Officer Miguel Fernández are in the process of building upon their initial platform, which has

become known as "The Grid" through a series of discussions with various audiences within the community.

"The Grid" is comprised of three separate umbrella objectives: Building Community and Resilience, Promoting Mind-Body Well-being and Increasing Diversity and Inclusivity. Each objective has its own chart and associated timeline of current, near-term and far-term concrete agenda items.

This project partly grew out of a series of meetings held by the College Board of Overseers, a sub-group of the Board of Trustees responsible for the undergraduate institution, in which its anchor administrator, Lloyd, had

been helping to guide a conversation over concerns and challenges surrounding inclusivity, diversity and community on campus.

Following these conversations and a presentation by Smith Abbott, Lloyd and Fernández, these three were asked to put together a list of initiatives, programs and opportunities that the College could work to expand upon in the next few years. This "wish list," as Smith Abbott termed it, was slated to include price tags for what it would take to get the College to a better place in terms of inclusivity and diversity on campus.

Separately, at the May meeting of the full Board of Trustees,

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MIDDLEBURY SIGNS CLIMATE PLEDGE WITH 200 COLLEGES

By Caroline Agsten
News Editor

The College joined more than 200 colleges and universities nationwide to sign the American Campuses Act on Climate Pledge to demonstrate support for strong international climate action. President Laurie L. Patton sent the College's pledge to the White House on Nov. 10 in preparation for the United Nations Climate Change Conference in Paris from Nov. 30 through Dec. 11.

The pledge reads: "As institutions of higher education, we applaud the progress already made to promote clean energy and climate action as we seek a comprehensive, ambitious agreement at the upcoming United Nations Climate Negotiations in Paris. We recognize the urgent need to act now to avoid irreversible costs to our global community's economic prosperity and public health and are optimistic that world leaders will reach an agreement to secure a transition to a low carbon future. Today our school pledges to accelerate the transition to low-carbon energy while enhancing sustainable and resilient practices across our campus."

According to a press release from the White House, all the institutions signing the pledge have already undertaken significant steps toward reducing greenhouse gas emissions, increasing campus sustainability and resilience and incorporating environmental action into academic programs.

One of the goals outlined in Middlebury's pledge is to displace the remaining use of fuel oil (approximately 650,000 gallons per year) with carbon-neutral biomethane gas from a manure digester on a nearby dairy farm.

Furthermore, the College promises to "continue exploring ways to add new sources of renewable, carbon-neutral electricity sources to power the campus."

Dedication to sustainability has been an official part of Middlebury's mission since 1995, when trustees established a set of principles and objectives for the campus. As of today, Middlebury is on track to achieve full carbon neutrality by the end of 2016. The College has already reduced emissions of greenhouse gases by 50 percent from the 2007 baseline. One of the major milestones toward achieving carbon neutrality was the completion of the \$12 million biomass gasification plant, which was installed in 2009.

The pledge also cites the ways in which the College regularly engages in a number of different environmental initiatives and projects. The campus-wide recycling center and compost operation, for example, diverts about 65 percent of waste from landfills each year. In 2012, in partnership with local developers, the College installed solar farms on and off campus, which provides five percent of electricity on campus. In addition, students competed twice in the US Department of Energy's Solar Decathlon competition. The student-led projects to design and build single-family residential homes operating on only solar electricity and heat finished in fourth and eighth places in 2011 and 2013, respectively.

In addition to college and university campuses, about 81 American companies signed a similar climate pledge to show their support for international climate agreement ahead of the Paris conferences.



THE CAMPUS

The College cited the \$12 million biomass plant as one its defining actions addressing climate change in its signing of the American Campuses Act on Climate Pledge.

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COMMUNITY COUNCIL UPDATE

By Nick Garber
Community Council
Correspondent & Contributing
Writer

On Nov. 9, Community Council reviewed its large list of potential solutions to student stress, discussing whether additional topics should be added.

Several students agreed that the advising system could be significantly improved. An opportunity to engage with their advisors on subjects that are not purely academic, they said, would be highly valued.

In addition, Public Safety Telecom Manager and Tech Support Specialist Solon Coburn, citing a recent *New York Times* article, mentioned the possibility of framing stress not simply as a negative emotion, but as a tool which can be utilized to one's advantage.

On Nov. 16, the Council dedicated its meeting to the subject of faculty stress, with several professors sharing their thoughts on the issue.

Dean of the College Katy Smith Abbott (who has taught in the Department of the History of Art and Architecture) concurred with another professor that certain measures to combat student stress may only increase the stress felt by faculty. Self-scheduled exams, she said, were one example.

"There is a very high percentage of cheating that goes on with self-scheduled exams," she said. "So if you're managing the anxiety about whether your students are going to be dishonest in taking it, or you're spending the time following up on a dishonesty case, that's a lot of time and an immense amount of stress for a faculty member."

Associate Professor of Political Science Bert Johnson felt similarly. "When I first got here, I did a lot of self-scheduled exams, because I thought it was easier for students," he said. "But after several cycles of honor code review committee reports, I could not in good conscience continue because of the incidence of cheating."

"From a faculty perspective, when you encounter an instance of cheating or plagiarism... there's nothing in my teaching career that has made me feel worse than that," Johnson said.

Faculty also cited students' frequent desire to see course syllabi during the summer before registration takes place. "Very often, a faculty member is planning on using the summer or late summer weeks to pull [a syllabus] together," said Smith Abbott.

Sarah Laursen, Assistant Professor of History of Art and Architecture, agreed on several points, adding that "it's more difficult for new faculty to pull together that syllabus. It takes time to gauge what level the students are at, and you need a little flexibility in your syllabus if you end up changing some things."

Laursen listed several additional sources of stress for many faculty, including advising, developing and preparing new courses, and maintaining a "rigorous schedule" of publication.

Johnson noted that the issue of publication was a common one, particularly when balanced with a professor's responsibility to teach. "It used to be that when you were at a liberal arts college like this, it was all about teaching. Increasingly, at liberal arts colleges, you are expected to have a big record of publications, in addition to being the best possible teacher and being engaged in the community."

This accumulation of "stuff," Johnson felt, is what prevents the College community from "interacting with one another in low-stakes, casual ways."

Several students shared that this high level of faculty stress often deters them from "bothering" professors who they feel might be busy — a revelation which struck faculty as particularly disappointing.

"It breaks my heart when students say, 'I know how busy you are!'" Smith Abbott said.

"The best part of my day is going into the classroom," agreed Johnson. "If students are worried about approaching faculty because they're worried about adding stress load to the faculty, that's a real problem."

"The Grid" Focuses on Mental Health

CONTINUED FROM PAGE 1

Smith Abbott presented a long reflection on what had transpired throughout the year, particularly framed around student stress.

"We discussed what it feels like to not be able to get out from underneath the stressors of day-to-day life as students at Middlebury and what that brought to the floor in terms of what types of support were missing, and what students thought we lacked on campus," Smith-Abbott said.

These talks on diversity and inclusivity paired with what was surfacing about student stress led to a sense of urgency on the part of the Board of Trustees that the administration needed to discuss these issues and work to develop an action plan.

"We were asked by the Board of Trustees to identify the areas in which we could have the greatest impact and to identify three 'experiments' that we could have on the ground in September that would address some of the causes of student stress," Smith Abbott said.

Smith Abbott emphasized that they weren't trying to collapse the diversity and inclusivity piece into the rest of the student stress like a problem to be solved, but rather saw a great deal of overlap between the stressors that students brought with them when they came to the College or experienced as a result of being a student in a community that traversed between the realms of academic stress and issues of identity, community, student support and bias.

In what started as a brainstorming session with a white board and a great deal of buzz-words surrounding stressors across campus, Smith Abbott, Lloyd and Fernández began to separate these words into three categories which naturally morphed into the three experiments requested by Whittington.

"We started by seeing how those qualities or stressors settled into three big categories, and then within each category we started to brainstorm both what was already happening, as well as what we could imagine happening this year and beyond," Smith Abbott said. "We picked one thing from each of those big umbrella categories that we thought we could actually try to make happen this year."

Due to fiscal year constraints, the items slated for this fall couldn't be the more substantial ticket items because they were out of sync, and thus not yet included in the budget cycle which starts every January. They furthermore planned to follow through with only the smaller agenda

items because the whole community had yet to be involved in the conversation.

"It wasn't meant to be, here's what is good for everybody, as we recognized the need for a much broader community conversation, which we have moved forward this fall," Smith Abbott said. "We were trying to be really thoughtful about which of the agenda items we felt were good, solid ideas to at least try, and which we would have to hold on until more people weighed in on them."

Thus far this fall, "The Grid" has been presented to the Board of Trustees, the President Senior Leadership Group, the Middlebury Leadership Group, the Community Council and the entire Student Life Division. Students were shown the plan on Dec. 2 and faculty will be shown on Dec. 17.

These discussions have involved a powerpoint on the components of "The Grid" followed by brainstorm sessions in which small groups address what might already be happening on the small scale in order to gauge what efforts are already afoot, perhaps departmentally or in a student organization. After recognizing what was already in place, these small groups have then fed additional ideas into "The Grid."

"One of the ironies of this is that as this grid grows, there is a danger of the thing itself becoming an overwhelming document, which we are trying to avoid," Smith Abbott said. "Let's not stress people out with a thing that is supposed to be helping with stress!"

One of the experiments slated to begin this Winter Term is a storytelling series called "It's Not What You Think," a space for staff and alumni to reflect and converse with students on past failures and the twists and turns of life. This is built upon a program Smith Abbott had learned about at a conference and is targeted to be a natural complement to existing storytelling series such as "What Matters to Me and Why" put on by the Center for Social Entrepreneurship. Smith Abbott stressed the need to identify and build upon such synergies within the community.

President of the College Laurie L. Patton reached out to the community earlier this week outlining a list of activities working to create a more inclusive community, including several objectives outlined by "The Grid." One such measure they have taken is inviting the Posse Foundation to host three on-campus workshops — one for admissions and financial aid staff, one for faculty and administrators and one for student leaders.

According to her email, "These half-day

workshops will leverage Posse's experience designing and facilitating interactive experiences that explore and confront challenging sociopolitical issues facing higher education today."

In addition to these workshops, the College has contracted Romney Associates to hold four faculty-recruitment workshops designed to boost their goal of further diversifying the faculty.

Among many potential longer term goals is a pre-enrollment program for first generation students or students coming from high school backgrounds where having some kind of summer preparation program could be helpful. Another expensive potential long-term objective is the addition of new CRAs to each commons.

Moving forward Smith Abbott stressed the need to figure out how the conversation will continue.

"One of the important things we'll need to clarify moving forward is how this conversation will continue," Smith Abbott said. "What is a mechanism that allows the campus to own this conversation and for it to continue in a robust fashion so that people really think their good ideas are being recorded and acted upon?"

One such mechanism is slated to be a website welcoming community input to further the conversation surrounding these objectives. Such a platform would provide a space where new ideas can begin to take shape and form.

"We are beginning work on a website that will act as a hub for discussion and ideas around issues of stress, inclusivity, resilience, mind-body well-being and more," said Vice President for Communications and Marketing Bill Burger. "Given the number of initiatives that are being considered and that are in place already across the institution, we felt it would be helpful to the community if we created a modest site to describe these efforts and invite suggestions and comments. I think we all see this as a first step and we'll continue to evolve the site and our approach to it over time."

While this project could potentially continue under a working group as a part of Community Council or some kind of hybrid SGA and faculty-staff council, Smith Abbott spoke to its ever-changing nature.

She said, "We'll need to see which things are really going to stay and what is the space for experimentation. The idea here is to keep things dynamic and open. We want people to have real influence by participating in a process to figure out what really works for Middlebury."

Town Hall Forum Encourages Empathy

CONTINUED FROM PAGE 1

community committed to civility, open-mindedness and finding common ground."

"[There's] the argument that just because we can burn the American flag still means that we shouldn't. I think of that as being applicable to free speech as well. We have the right to do all sorts of things, but maybe we shouldn't — out of self respect and respect for our community," Sargena said.

Fernández summarized the previous town hall discussion, in which attendants discussed the cultural symbolism of the sombrero.

"I think the discussion came down to: if a group finds something offensive there is a historical reason for that, then you really ought to question why you're doing something," said Fernández.

Students wondered if College policy could be changed to mitigate offensive actions or statements. One member of the faculty responded that he believed including controls on speech and dress in college policy is too subjective and would privilege certain voices.

Another student pointed out that the 1st amendment rights are not guaranteed at private organizations like corporations, religious groups or colleges. The College can design community standards or put restrictions on freedom of speech if it decides that is appropriate for its mission.

The discussion then moved to the issue of the ignorance of white students towards

cultural and racial sensitivities. Multiple students noted that it was not the responsibility of students of color to educate other students on their cultures. Others called on the administration to institute programming, whether it be required reading or discussions during orientation week, that would encourage students to engage in what it means to live in a diverse community. Suggestions for how to self-educate were varied — while some students pointed to the internet and Google as a powerful tool for finding information on racial and cultural sensitivities and history, many professors in attendance emphasized the superiority of academic sources and the importance of using the faculty as a resource.

Nicolas Mendia '16 shared his experience with confronting the student wearing the sombrero, but emphasized that this was only one of many incidents that had affected him this semester. He related the student's resistance to take off her sombrero and her conviction that she was not culturally appropriating, and that he had felt afraid upon realizing that he could have faced repercussions for approaching the student had she felt threatened.

"This was the third incident of racism I had experienced this semester," Mendia said. "The Otter Nonsense 'kissed her doorman' and the soccer team's 'Mexican jumping bean' posters were the two others. These incidents made me afraid. However small you see them, I spent the next few weeks

scared because someone on this campus considered this behavior okay, not unlike the much worse incidents of targeted racism I faced in my community growing up."

"So when you say, 'You're too sensitive' or 'have a thicker skin,' I need you to understand, *I have had my thicker skin*. I am exhausted. I have had enough. These incidents have been eating away at me all semester, made me afraid to go to class, made me angry with myself and the strangers around me because I do not know whether you are the ones doing these transgressions. It's incidents like these that forced me to move off campus because I do not feel safe in this community anymore. I don't want to be here anymore."

Once the space reached capacity, students, staff and administrators were turned away, including Russell J. Leng '60 Professor of International Politics and Economics Allison Stanger.

"It was a missed opportunity to build community that can easily be put right," Stanger said. "As soon as possible, we should hold another meeting in a larger venue and encourage everyone to attend. Gathering everyone together in this way is of the utmost importance. It made me proud of who we are to see so many people show up yesterday."

Fernández concluded the meeting by saying that he hoped that this would not be the end of the discussion and that he hoped to host another forum in the coming weeks.

Vermonters React to Syrian Resettlement

By Harry Cramer
Local News Editor

In the aftermath of the devastating terrorist attacks in France and Beirut, the United States refugee resettlement program has come under intense scrutiny. The national dialogue surrounding resettlement has grown increasingly polarized, especially after President Barack Obama's decision in September to admit an additional 10,000 Syrian refugees. With the 2016 gubernatorial elections in Vermont fast approaching, politicians on both sides of the aisle have weighed in.

Governor Peter Shumlin (D), who has already declared he will not be running for reelection, has expressed his support for accepting Syrian refugees into Vermont.

"You've got to stand up for what's right," Shumlin said. "I believe the right thing to do is for Vermont to say, to folks fleeing torture and terror, we are a welcoming state."

Governor Shumlin has been very active on Twitter in his support. In November, he posted videos and pictures of his meetings with refugees from a variety of countries. Vermont has a long history of refugee resettlement. Since 1989, Vermont has resettled over 6,000 refugees primarily from Bosnia, Bhutan, Nepal, Burundi, Congo, Rwanda, Somalia and Sudan.

"Two days before Thanksgiving, I'm thankful for refugees who have come to Vermont," read one tweet.

Ultimately, Shumlin claimed that those who hoped to stop refugee resettlement were espousing values antithetical to what it means to be American.

"When people are dying," said Shumlin in an interview with NPR, "when people's lives are being threatened, when they're getting in little rafts to escape wherever they were ... we don't become the country that says, 'We're closing the borders. We don't trust you, and we're not going to let you in.'"

Although Shumlin's support has drawn the ire of some Vermonters, individual states do not have the legal authority to block refugee resettlement. According to the Refugee Act of 1980, the authority over refugee resettlement rests at the federal level. In 2012, the Supreme Court took up a similar case regarding immigration from Mexico, and ruled that individual states do not have the right to enforce unique immigration laws.

Historically, Vermont has allowed

roughly 350 refugees a year to resettle, using a screening process that takes 1,000 days.

Other candidates in the 2016 Vermont Gubernatorial election have been less receptive. Two Republican candidates, Lieutenant Governor Phil Scott and former Wall Street banker Bruce Lisman, have called for resettlement efforts to cease.

"I think it's incumbent upon us to [cease resettlement efforts]," said Scott, "until such time as the federal government can prove it is meeting its national security obligations; making sure that there is a rigorous process, to make sure that it's just those peace loving Syrians, and others, that want to come into our states."

Bruce Lisman, a fellow Republican candidate expressed a similar sentiment.

"It's very tempting to see these pictures and videos and say we've got to do something," said Lisman. He urged that the state "take a step back" and consider the security ramifications of allowing Syrians to resettle in Vermont.

Sue Minter, one of two Democratic candidates for Governor, supported Shumlin's call to welcome Syrian refugees.

"Keep Vermont compassionate and open," read one of Minter's tweets. "Thank you Governor Shumlin and Representative Peter Welch for votes opposing intolerance and standing up for refugees."

Matt Dunne, a Democratic gubernatorial candidate, agreed. "I have to say that when I heard Phil Scott's position on it, I was extremely disappointed."

"I would have hoped that Phil would be someone who would not just fall in line with the right-wing Republicans in Congress," Dunne continued.

After facing this intense criticism, Scott toned back his statement – if only slightly.

"When asked what I would do, I probably should have gone a little further to explain that I don't understand the situation and I certainly don't feel like we can pause or stop the refugee program in its entirety," he said. "But I do honestly feel the highest obligation of any government is to ensure the safety and security of every citizen."

Currently, the Vermont Refugee Resettlement Program (VRRP) serves as the only resettlement program in Vermont. No Syrian refugees have yet been reset-



COURTESY BURLINGTON FREE PRESS

Governor Shumlin strongly supports Obama's call to increase Syrian resettlement.

tled, but the VRRP expects to bring Syrian refugees to Vermont within the next year.

In fact, lost amongst the polemics of the debate are the specifics of the resettlement process itself, and the attendant screening procedures. For Syrian refugees, officials say screening procedures are among the most stringent in the world.

First, refugees are screened by the United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees (UNHCR). The process includes in-depth refugee interviews, reference checks in their country of origin and biological screenings. Only a small percentage of these refugees are viable to be resettled overseas, including survivors of torture, victims of sexual violence and targets of political persecution.

If a refugee passes this stage and is referred to the United States, they undergo a strict process performed in coordination with the State Department, the FBI's Terrorist Screening Center, the Department of Defense and the Department of Homeland Security. Fingerprints are collected, backstories checked for accuracy and VISAs scrutinized. Of the applicants, approximately half will pass this two-year test.

Supporters of resettlement in Vermont believe that these layers of security are strong and that terrorists would not bother to infiltrate such a secure system.

"No terrorist will wait four or five years in poor circumstances to come into the United States," said Achraf Alamatouri, an English teacher who left Syria in 2011 and currently works with the Vermont Refugee Resettlement Program.

Amila Merdzanovic, speaking on behalf of the Vermont Refugee Resettlement Program with WPTZ News, said that "Americans, Vermonters, need to trust the system because the system works."

Nationally, these voices are in the minority. Thirty governors, of both parties, have called for the United States to cease the resettlement of refugees until security concerns can be addressed. In the North-

east, this includes governor Charlie Baker (R) of Massachusetts, Paul LePage (R) of Maine and Maggie Hassan (D) of New Hampshire. Notably, Governor Hassan was the first Democratic governor to call for resettlement to cease.

Rhetoric has also varied, with some governors more adamant than others. Idaho Governor Butch Otter said that he would use "any legal means available" to block Syrian refugees from resettling there.

The issue has also been addressed by most presidential candidates. In an interview with Fox News, Ted Cruz (R) declared that "those who are fleeing persecution should be resettled in the Middle East, in majority Muslim countries. Now on the other hand, Christians who are being targeted for persecution, for genocide, who are being beheaded or crucified, we should be providing safe haven to them."

Jeb Bush expressed a similar sentiment: "There are a lot of Christians in Syria that have no place now. They'll be either executed or imprisoned, either by Assad or by ISIS. I think we should focus our efforts, as it relates to the refugees, to the Christians who are being slaughtered."

Perhaps the most impassioned plea to resettle refugees came from Senator Patrick Leahy (D) of Vermont. In an open letter published last week, he called for his fellow Vermonters to reexamine their "knee-jerk" reactions to the refugee crisis.

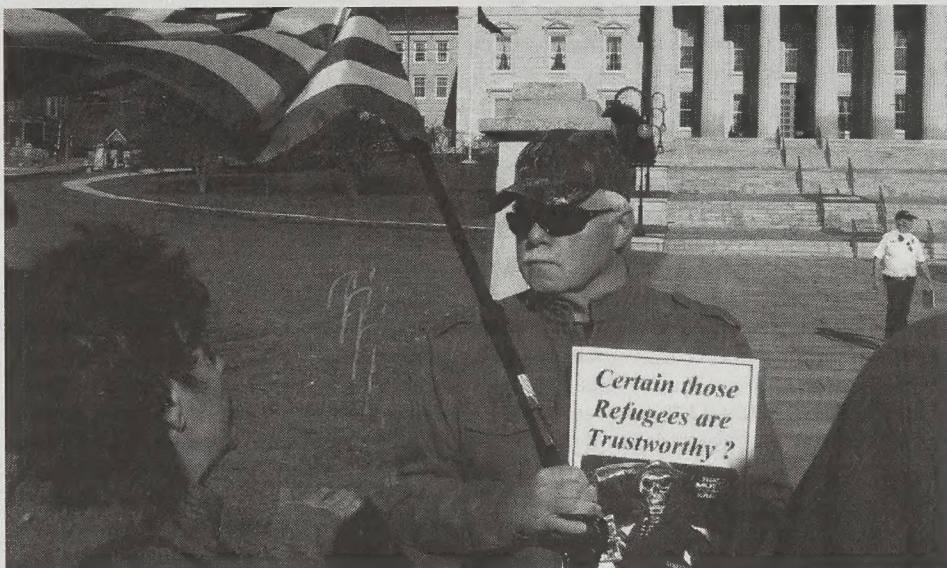
"Intolerance has no place in this great and good country," read the letter. "Accepting refugees is a part of our history, our culture, of who we are, and it can be done safely with the proper screening procedures. This week, we give thanks for our freedom and for the American tradition of serving as a beacon of hope to those who are persecuted and in need of refuge. It would be a cruel irony if a terrorist attack in France caused us to abandon the American values embodied in France's gift to America, the Statue of Liberty."

"No terrorist will wait four or five years in poor circumstances to come into the United States."

ACHRAF ALAMATOURI
EMPLOYEE OF VERMONT REFUGEE RESETTLEMENT PROGRAM

It would be a cruel irony if a terrorist attack in France caused us to abandon the American values embodied in France's gift to America, the Statue of Liberty."

PATRICK LEAHY
VERMONT SENATOR



COURTESY VALLEY NEWS

Rallies in favor of and in opposition to Syrian resettlement clashed outside the Statehouse.

Two New York Men Indicted for Sex Trafficking in Vermont

By Alessandria Schumacher
Local News Editor

Last week, Gary Delima and Sharif Cargo, both age 26 of Brooklyn, NY, were indicted by a federal grand jury for various charges of human trafficking in Vermont.

According to a statement released by the office of the U.S. Attorney for the District of Vermont, "Delima and Cargo are accused of recruiting, enticing and maintaining two individuals referred to in the indictment as "Victim 1" and "Victim 2," and using force, threats of force, fraud and coercion to cause them to engage in commercial sex acts between Sept. 2012 and Sept. 2013." In addition, Delima was accused of transporting a minor, referred to as "Victim 3," to Vermont to engage in prostitution earlier this year.

Delima and Cargo were first suspected of human trafficking in July of 2013 when law enforcement officials responded to a call in a South Burlington hotel and found the two men there with two women. The police found evidence of prostitution and narcotics on the scene.

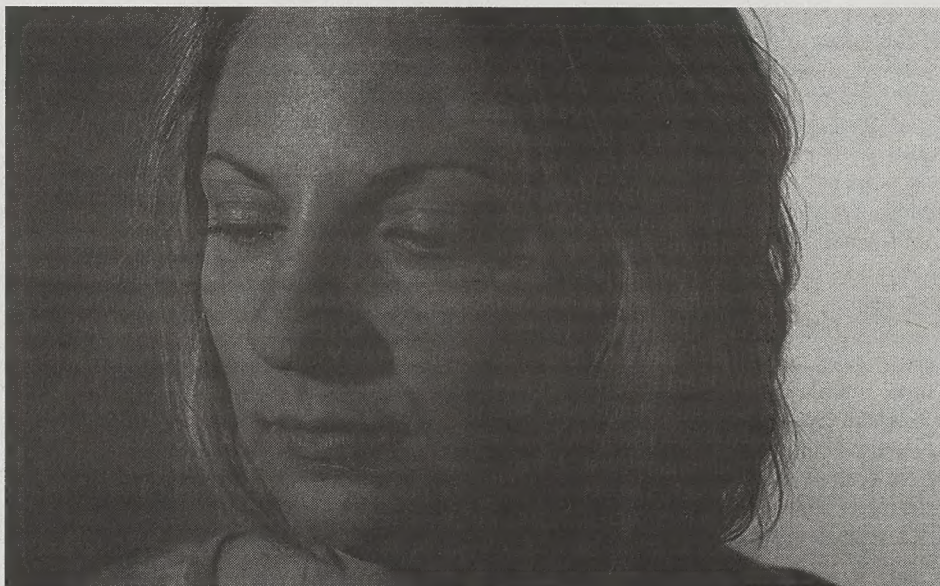
In addition, they found that one of the women had been listed online earlier that day as an available escort in the South Burlington area. Records from the website showed that Cargo's email address had been associated with the email and other similar advertisements.

This past February, police received another call from a South Burlington hotel, where they found two women. These women said that they were engaged in prostitution and that Delima had brought them here from New York for that purpose. One of these two women was a minor, which would lead Delima to face worse charges, if found guilty of sex trafficking of a child.

If convicted of Sex Trafficking by Force and Coercion, both Cargo and Delima would face a minimum sentence of 15 years in prison up to a maximum sentence of life in prison, according to a statement by the U. S. Attorney's District of Vermont Office. If found guilty of sex trafficking of a child, Delima could also receive ten years to a lifetime in prison.

The indictment of Cargo and Delima came just several weeks after U.S. Attorney for the District of Vermont Eric Miller launched an anti-sex trafficking media campaign in Vermont in response to the rise in sex trafficking in the state in recent years. According to the National Human Trafficking Resource Center, they received 37 calls and reports of seven human trafficking cases that mentioned Vermont in 2014, which was up from the 17 calls and reports of three cases in 2012. As of June 30, they had received 14 calls and three cases referencing Vermont.

The media campaign led by Eric Miller consists of a website, ucanstoptraffick.org. The homepage reads, "U Can Stop Traffick - help end sex and drug trafficking in Vermont." The website features the stories of three women from Vermont who were victims of sex trafficking and ended up abusing drugs. There is also a one minute public service announcement video and a list of avail-



COURTESY UCANSTOPTRAFFICK.ORG

Jasmine Grace tells her story of surviving sex trafficking and drug addiction.

able resources.

Prior to this indictment for human trafficking, Delima and Cargo were also indicted back in March for distributing heroin and cocaine in Vermont. This connection between the drug trade and human trafficking in Vermont is not uncommon.

Human trafficking often begins with an addiction to heroin, cocaine or other opiates while under the control of their perpetrator. Once dependent on drugs, victims of human trafficking often turn to using sex as a means to make money to feed their addiction and to pay off drug debts. Jasmine Grace, a survivor of sex trafficking and drug addiction featured ucanstoptraffick.org, elaborated on this idea in

"You become addicted to drugs, so now you don't have an actual pimp over your head, you have a growing drug addiction, so the only way to support that drug addiction really is to prostitute. I didn't realize that this was going to turn into a heroin addiction."

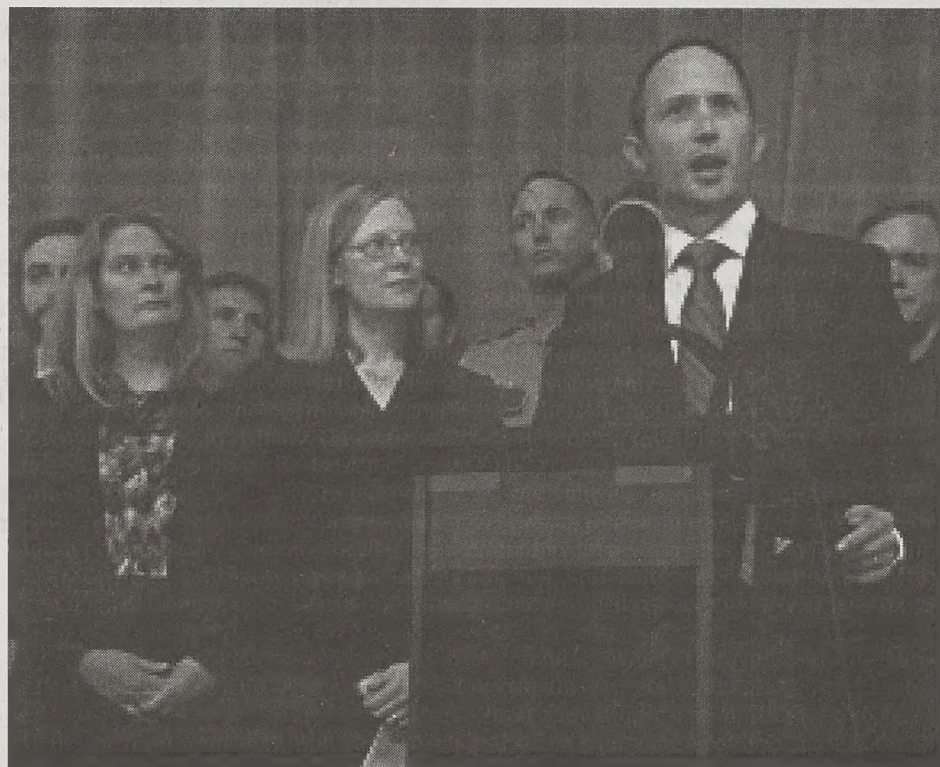
JASMINE GRACE
SURVIVOR OF SEX TRAFFICKING

"No one deals drugs alone," said Geni Cowles, First Assistant U.S. Attorney in the Vermont district. "For every dealer our office charges there's a circle of people, charged and uncharged, who make that drug dealing activity possible and profitable."

Cowles said 75 percent of the people who support drug dealers are women. They provide support by giving them housing, cars and contact lists. Many women are also used to transport drugs or make minor deals. Cowles added that many of these women are also trafficked for sex. Of these women, Cowles articulated that 60 percent were under 30, most were addicted to substances and one quarter were in a romantic relationship with the dealer.

The current indictment of Delima and Cargo highlights the common trend that human and drug trafficking are inextricably linked.

In light of this rising trend, public and private groups are working to reduce human and drug trafficking in Vermont. In addition to the U.S. Attorney's U Can Stop Traffick campaign discussed above, the Vermont Human Trafficking



COURTESY VT DIGGER

Erin Miller, U.S. Attorney, announces an anti-sex traffickicking media campaign.

her interview on the website.

"You become addicted to drugs, so now you don't have an actual pimp over your head, you have a growing drug addiction, so the only way to support that drug addiction really is to prostitute," Grace said. "I didn't realize that this was going to turn into a heroin addiction."

Not only are victims of sex trafficking drug abusers, many are also helping financially support drug dealers.

Task Force was formed in 2010. The task force included two representatives from Give Way to Freedom, a Vermont-based non-profit that works locally and internationally to end human trafficking and support victims. As a result of the Vermont Human Trafficking Task Force, legislation was passed in 2011 that mandated training on human trafficking for law enforcement and gave the possibility of a life sentence.

LOCAL LOWDOWN

3

Christmas Sleigh Ride in Bristol

Enjoy this two day event of festivities in Bristol. With arts and crafts, baked goods, raffles and a silent auction, this event has everything you need to get yourself into the holiday spirit. Centered around the St. Ambrose Church, the holiday festivities will also include a silver tea event on Friday and a visit from Santa on Saturday.

Dec. 4 1-5PM, Dec. 5 9AM-5PM

Info Session on Communal Living

Has the end of the semester gotten you down? Are you sick of your roommates? If so, joining the 14-unit eco-village neighborhood might be for you. There will be an information session on this project to discuss floor plans, site plans, pricing, energy designers, benefits of cohousing and more. Coming to Bristol across from the town park, this project is expecting to fill occupancy by the fall of 2016.

Dec. 3 7-9PM

Library Tag Sale

Looking for cheap holiday gifts or extra decorations for your room? Stop by the Lincoln Library to check out items donated for re-sale. This sale will include items such as necklaces, pins, earrings, purses and more.

Dec. 4 10AM-4PM

Snow White and the Seven Dwarfs Perform in Brandon

If you are looking to get your dose of Disney for the week, then this event is for you. Spearheaded by the youth drama program at the Brandon Recreation Department, this production is put on by K-6 students from Neshobe, Leicester and Whitting schools. Tickets are \$5, and free for children under four.

Dec. 4, 7PM

Eyes on the Land Exhibit

Co-organized by the Shelburne Museum and the Vermont Land Trust, this exhibit features the work of 13 Vermont artists who were inspired by 15 conserved Vermont lands. Each work is a visual essay that entails the artist's response to the protected places they depicted. The exhibition will be on display until Jan. 3, but do not miss your chance to check it out! All ages are welcome and tickets are free with museum admission.

Dec. 3 12PM-5PM

OPINIONS

The Middlebury Campus

Stress and the Student Body

As the end of the semester draws near, a familiar topic bubbles to the surface of everyday conversation: stress. The student body, as a collective, is stressed. But we

EDITORIAL

The editorial represents the official opinion of *The Middlebury Campus* as decided by the editorial board.

are less certain on precisely why students are stressed and how to combat it. The answers to “why” and “how” are numerous and multifaceted. One’s academic standing, financial situation, social life and extracurricular

engagements can all contribute to experiences of stress. The editorial board recognizes

that this issue is complex and no solution is perfect, immediate or all encompassing.

We also wish to point out, however, that no solution will be successful without an ongoing dialogue between students and the administration. In the wake of Nathan Alexander’s suicide last spring, members of the administration attempted to address student stress and implement solutions through a project coined “The Grid.” Inclusive

remove students from the room. The opinions that were voiced during the open portion of the meeting bear little resemblance to the sentiments voiced by students themselves. Some professors talked about how students overextend themselves in extracurricular commitments, causing stress; the reality is far more complex, as students could have told them.

Professors and members of the

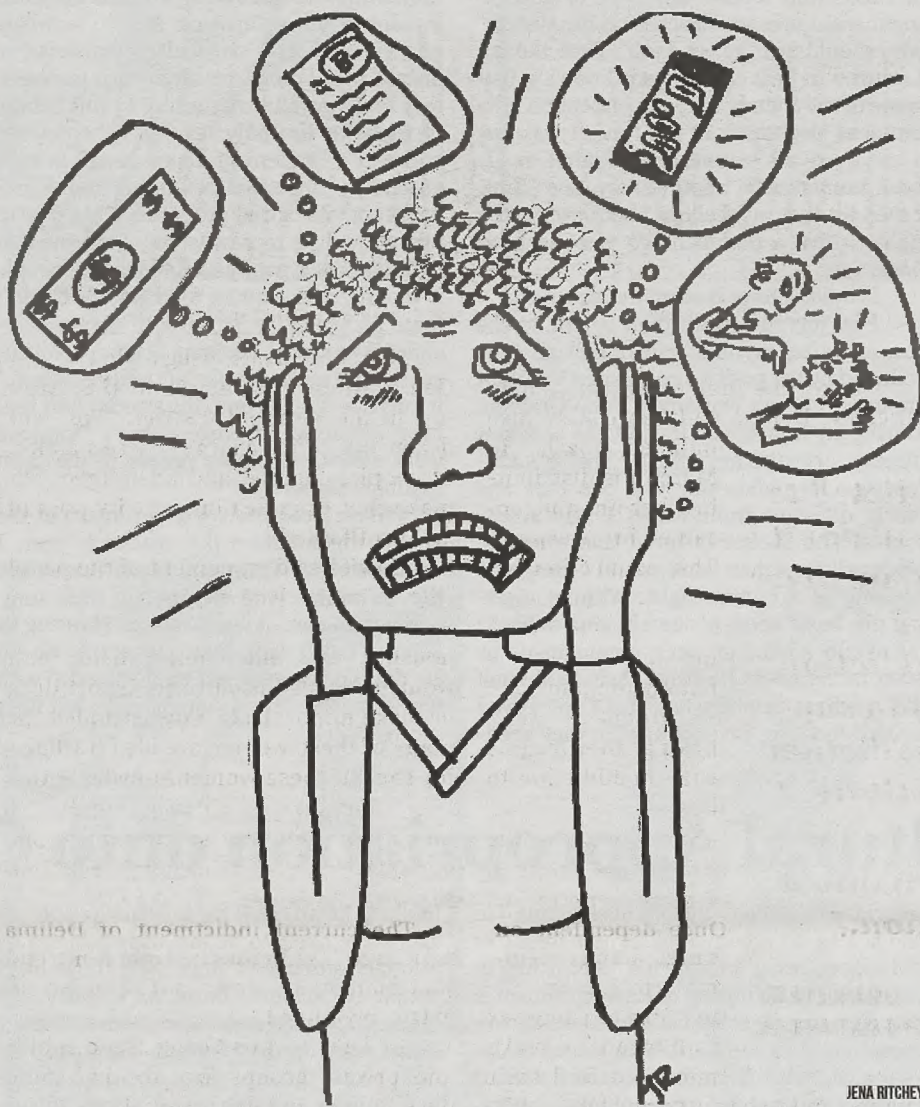
straight to a solutions-oriented narrative.

Meanwhile, students have been leaders at combating this issue. SGA President Ilana Gratch ’16 proposed the creation of a peer-counseling program, which would enable students to connect and work through everyday stresses and challenges in an approachable environment. Due to liability issues, the suggestion is facing pushback. We understand that formalizing students’ role as “counselors” could pose potential problems. But there are plenty of other student-led initiatives that deal with sensitive issues, including JusTalks, MiddSafe and Res Life. Thankfully, under the guidance of Barbara McCall, SGA will expand the Winter Term Workshop entitled “Student Support Network” this January. This course will train students to support their peers in a robust, substantive capacity. We appreciate this effort and hope to see it eventually formalized into a mentorship program between older and younger students.

However, these initiatives cannot stand on their own. We recognize the administration’s efforts to promote wellness, particularly through “The Grid.” Suggested solutions are varied, from mindfulness exercises in the short term to additional CRAs in the long term.

In the meantime, what can we do? Policies and programs take time to implement and many of us will graduate before these plans come to fruition. But we can attempt to take control of our daily reality and of the ways we process and perpetuate narratives of stress. It often seems like we are engaged in a competitive “Work Olympics,” where everyone tries to one-up each other with how much they have on their plates. Stress becomes a humble brag; if you’re stressed, you’re high achieving.

This culture contributes to and heightens our collective stress. And so, as finals week approaches, let us make an effort to consciously avoid stress-related monologues. Let us not use our workload as a default line of conversation. By all means voice genuine concerns and seek help in times of trouble — there are resources and friends on campus who would be willing to lend a hand. But also remember that stress need not consume your daily reality; you are more than your stress. If you’re taking a much-needed break from your work, don’t spend it talking about your work. Stress should not be a defining characteristic of Middlebury culture and college is one of the few times in our lives that we will have the time and space to learn to better manage stress and anxiety. The stressors that exist at Middlebury are also steeped in the world outside of the College. Let’s commit ourselves as a community to addressing this issue and to looking out for one another in the coming weeks.



pedagogy training and increasing Parton’s counseling staff emerged as proposed initiatives. But these efforts were conceived over the summer and student input was not taken into consideration.

This is problematic. “Student stress” is inherently a student issue and we can offer insight into what that issue looks like. Without student input, the administration’s conversation has become single-minded. Likewise, when student stress emerged as a topic in a recent faculty meeting, the faculty voted to move into executive session and

administration are largely out of touch with the stressors of today’s college students. Students have the added anxieties of applying for increasingly competitive internships and jobs, dealing with ever-rising student debt and managing the omnipresent role of social media in our lives. While we recognize that the administration is now seeking student input, namely at “The Grid” meeting on Wednesday, this initiative should have occurred much earlier. One must understand a problem before devising a solution. In the case of student stress, the College jumped

The Middlebury Campus

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Our Role in the Syrian Refugee Crisis

Residents of the “First World” often look at the newspaper and see all kinds of horrific injustices and tragedies happening all over the world. There’s a feeling of helplessness in the way we discuss the problems of the day

READER OP-ED

Jeff Holland ’19 is from Cleveland, Ohio.

that are distant from our own homes. We usually just shake our heads in dismay and say, “This is awful, but there’s nothing we can do about it.”

But sometimes you actually can do something about it, whether you know it or not. As Travis Sanderson ’19 pointed out in his op-ed from last week, “A Call for Conscience,” we as students at an elite American college have an exceptional opportunity to do our part for Syrian refugees.

We attend a school with a rapidly increasing \$1.1 billion endowment. What can we do with that money to help Syrian refugees? Sanderson outlined two important things our school can do to help, but in case you missed it, I will summarize them below:

1. We can partially subsidize the tuition of Syrian refugee students at universities in the Middle East — such as the University of Jordan — with whom we already have a close partnership and a study abroad school.

2. We can offer scholarships and cover transportation costs for Syrian refugee stu-

dents to come to our campus.

The first option is relatively cheap and easy, both for our administration and for the refugee students. We would have to do nothing more than send money to the University of Jordan for the purpose of scholarships for refugees. As Sanderson points out, a year of tuition at the University of Jordan costs 16,000 Jordanian dinars, or about \$22,560 USD, which means that paying for a quarter of one student’s tuition would only be about \$5,640 per year. Plus, there are already 619,000 Syrian refugees in Jordan. This option makes a lot of practical sense.

One might then ask, if the first option is so much easier and cheaper, why even consider actually bringing a Syrian student here to campus? I argue that bringing even just a few Syrian refugee students here would make a huge difference for the students, for us and for American higher education as a whole. The Syrian students would bring us their unique perspectives on the world, having firsthand experience with violence in Syria and xenophobia abroad. We would provide them with safety, community

and a first-rate education. By meeting and becoming friends with these students and having them be a part of our close-knit community, we would all have a better understanding of refugees as human beings, rather than as statistics in a newspaper.

Most importantly, however, we would be setting an example for colleges and univer-

sities all across the United States. Middlebury is no stranger to setting examples for the rest of the country to follow. In 1823, we set an example by becoming the first institution to give a bachelor’s degree to an African-American. We set examples in language instruction with our world-renowned language schools and

our Doctor of Modern Languages degree. Today, we continue to set examples with our commitment to sustainability and becoming carbon-neutral by 2016. Middlebury is a pioneer among American institutions of higher education, so it’s only fitting that we should be one of the first institutions to majorly welcome Syrian refugees to our campus. When we do so, hopefully other colleges and universities will follow suit.

“I argue that bringing even just a few Syrian refugee students here would make a huge difference for the students, for us and for American higher education as a whole.”

SLEEP-OUT FOR HOMELESSNESS

A liberal arts student trying to “leverage their privilege” by spending the summer working at a homeless shelter — a classic

READER OP-ED

Dan Adamek '18
is from Herkimer, NY

move for a self-proclaimed social justice warrior. But, when I accepted a position as a Shepherd Poverty Intern at John Graham Housing & Services I wasn't thinking about the juxtaposition of working at a homeless shelter while attending a college with a \$1.1 billion endowment. I was thinking about working in solidarity with low-income and homeless individuals because I believe that every person deserves to live a dignified life and that giving someone a safe place to lay their head at night is not only the first step toward a dignified life but also a human right.

Now, I'm not a “typical” student at Middlebury. My family isn't wealthy. I'm the first in my immediate family to attend a private college. I went to a public school where poverty was rampant. Despite my working class background, I've never had to worry about my basic needs being met; I never fret about when I would eat next or if I'd have a home in which I could sleep unlike many of my peers in high school.

Having grown up in an economically-depressed area, I have been hypersensitive to issues surrounding class and inequality for many years and this consequently piqued my interest during my junior year of high school in an internship working in local government, particularly in the area of social services. I ended up enjoying my job, and worked there on and off until I left my hometown to attend college. Although I spent

most of my time crunching numbers, I also spent a considerable amount of time listening to conversations regarding the delivery of services to low-income individuals. While many people engaged in conversations were dedicated to helping people live dignified lives, the majority of those in these discussions instead viewed poverty as a product of laziness and entitlement.

These sentiments were not just confined to a conference room, though. Like most right-leaning areas, in my hometown, it is a common thought that a large portion of those who receive any type of government assistance are “leeches on the system” who should just “go get a job”. Even though I cringed to hear these words knowing that some of my friends were dependent on government assistance, at the time, I was just a reserved adolescent who hadn't really been immersed in another narrative. Thus, I thought that my feelings about everyone's right to live a dignified life were isolated ones.

I couldn't have been more incorrect.

Fast forward more than a year to the summer after my first year of college. Surrounded by the positive energy of a Vermont summer, I began working at John Graham. During my first day on the job, the assistant director oriented me with the shelter's philosophy. Its philosophy was one that was vastly different from which I was accustomed. The Shelter believed that everyone — regardless of their background — deserved housing as a human right. Without meeting this basic need, it's nearly impossible to overcome addiction, seek employment or even be remotely healthy. Their food shelf did not have limits; when those we served needed food, we gave them what they need-

ed, whenever they needed it. We advocated for clients. We were not trying to give them a rigmarole about accessing services; we instead provided them with a service-rich environment in which they could thrive and become self-sustaining.

Most importantly, however, individuals were treated like humans. Ensuring that each one of our clients knew that they were worth something made a noticeable difference in how successful they were. It seems like a simple concept that when individuals are humanized and treated with compassion they are able to more easily and quickly reach a point of self-sufficiency. But, in so many narratives today — particularly conservative ones — social programs are seen as unnecessary and wasteful. According to this school of thought, the only way to fight poverty and end a “system of dependence” is with austerity — the rapid defunding and degradation of vital social programs. This type of talk not only is regressive but it affirms that dehumanizing poor and low-income people is morally just. Cutting food stamps doesn't force people to “work harder,” it causes recipients to starve. Slashing Section 8 vouchers doesn't make people “get off the system,” it forces recipients onto the streets. And limiting Medicaid coverage doesn't “improve work ethics,” it causes people to die from treatable illnesses.

When I stepped off as an intern at the Shelter right before the academic year, I witnessed how successful people are when they're treated with dignity and their basic needs are met. John Graham Housing & Services has it right. This is what they do every day, and they are constantly flooded with former residents who are dying to tell their success stories.

As a Middlebury community, we constantly acknowledge the fact that we are in such a privileged position, the least we can do is to help to support our most vulnerable community members. This Saturday is the perfect opportunity to continue the success stories coming out of John Graham Housing & Service. On Dec. 5, the Shelter will hold its second annual Sleep-out to End Homelessness. At 4 p.m., community members will gather for a candlelight vigil on the Middlebury Town Green followed by a light supper. Afterwards, community members will build an encampment by Otter Creek Falls to spend just one night in the cold that our homeless neighbors have to deal with daily. Perhaps one of the most important aspects of this event is the fundraising part. Please visit go/sleepout to make a donation or visit the Shelter's Facebook. Last year the sleep-out fundraised enough to purchase a transitional housing unit in Middlebury that has since housed multiple working families, veterans and chronically homeless individuals.

Please join me and other community members this Saturday for any parts of the event or consider making a gift to the Shelter so that it may continue the great work that it does to make our community the best that it can be. I hope to see you there!

Dan currently works as a Service Coordinator at John Graham Housing & Services and is on its Board of Directors. Please contact him with any questions at dadamek@middlebury.edu.

Inviting Cultural Appropriation onto Our Campus

To put it bluntly, Felly is the epitome of cultural appropriation and white privilege. He takes the culture, the language, the style and the stereotypical criminality of

VOICES ON DIVERSITY

Elizabeth Dunn '18
is writing on behalf of the
Institutional Diversity

black culture and uses it for aesthetic purposes. His music continues on the tradition of musical blackface, in which white musicians culturally appropriate African American Vernacular English (AAVE) for their own personal gain despite not being connected to the culture. Felly, those who were responsible for bringing him here and those planning to attend his concert are unaware of the systematic racism black people face, and how even seemingly innocuous or insignificant actions, like going to a concert, reinforce discrimination.

For example, in addition to appropriating AAVE, Felly appropriates Rastafarianism. Felly flashes the Rastafarian flag in

his video “Gorilla,” which is also featured in the link to his album, and he uses lines like “My inner being Rastafarian.” According to scholars, the definition of Rastafarianism is “an afro-centric religious and social movement based in the Caribbean island of Jamaica. It stems from the roots of Rastafari in rising against the post-colonial oppression of poor blacks.” It is intrinsically tied to blackness and a sense of place, and the obstacles and violence black people face as a result of white supremacy. It is not smoking weed, waving around a flag or listening to Bob Marley. Rastafarianism is black. It is exclusive, radical, politically charged and has been appropriated almost to the point of incoherency by white people who, despite what they say, seem to have no understanding of how the labels and practices they plagiarize actually work.

The thing is, because Felly, and other white people, have privilege because of their race, they don't really need to understand how black culture or systematic racism works. For example, while black people and white people smoke marijuana at the same rate, black people are four times more

likely to be arrested for it. Black people are also more likely to be incarcerated, and for a longer amount of time. And those black people are the lucky ones; the unlucky ones being Trayvon Martin, Mike Brown, Sandra Bland and too many others. Luck isn't the right word though, since the exploitation and murder of black people serves to support white supremacy. But white people aren't interested in appropriating that side of black culture — the pain, uncertainty and fear.

Felly doesn't seem especially interested in interacting with actual black people either. There are few black people in his videos, and a quick scroll of his SoundCloud page reveals pictures of him hanging out with his white friends and singing to a majority white crowd. People of color generally, and black people specifically, are difficult to find in his media, and searching for them almost feels like playing “Where's Waldo.”

Or maybe it's because his hometown of Trumbull, Connecticut is 94 percent white and 2 percent black, and he couldn't find any black people to associate with. But more likely it's because black people aren't “cool”;

black culture is “cool.” Black sound is “cool.” Being a criminal, which in this country is synonymous with being black, is “cool.” The human beings who produced these things, who live these lives and who die because they can't escape the same things Felly so superficially embraces? Not so much.

Considering Middlebury College's own history with appropriation, it's no surprise that Felly was chosen as our visiting artist. Diversity is more than just a word; it's recognizing the cultural backgrounds of all of our community members and being cognizant of those when making decisions that affect our campus. People don't recognize that what's fun for them can be incredibly harmful to students of color. Some individuals cannot remove the features appropriated for entertainment value once confronted with a racist reality. The bulk of the community wide conversations, like the ones before and after Thanksgiving Break concerning issues of inclusivity and appropriation, didn't occur until after Felly was booked, but hopefully in the future people will be more aware of the implications of bringing certain artists to campus.

Student Transcript from Town Hall Meeting

I was sitting here thinking about what I hoped to get out of this meeting and the idea of emotion has been a reoccurring theme for me. It's been mentioned a few times in this meeting and every time we've gone around I

READER OP-ED

Nicolas Mendia '16
is from Chicago, IL

Note: this piece is an edited and amended transcription of the author's speech at the Nov. 30 town hall meeting

we would latch on and delve a little deeper, but I still don't think it's been given its respects. And I am afraid to speak on it. I am afraid to say what I am about to say because of a number of different reasons, primarily that on this campus emotional people are torn down: your rationality and intelligence are questioned because you're just this person who's yelling or crying or swearing. I want to acknowledge this, so that you hear me when I say that that is the opposite of the case. When you come across someone who is

angry or afraid, you should listen even more to what they have to say because you can deny intelligence or rationality but you cannot deny someone's lived emotions. I want to acknowledge some of the emotions I felt these past two weeks.

Her response to me kindly asking why she was wearing that sombrero in Proctor, verbatim, was, “You know, I just really like to get turnt.” That hurt. It hurt to have someone look me dead in the eye and have them say a cultural artifact important to my heritage was nothing more than a prop for them to get drunk. Then when I tried to explain myself, to have her dismiss me by saying, “Oh no I got this in Canada for my birthday.” — but what you're doing is cultural appropriation and it — “Oh no, it's not cultural appropriation, I'm not doing that. It's totally okay.” She turned her back to me, dismissing any more conversation and I became furious. It was in that moment that I realized this was not an ignorant person; this was someone who was racist. You need to hear that. This was someone who was racist. This moment alone struck fear in me too: this girl could have very well come back at me, could have called Pub-

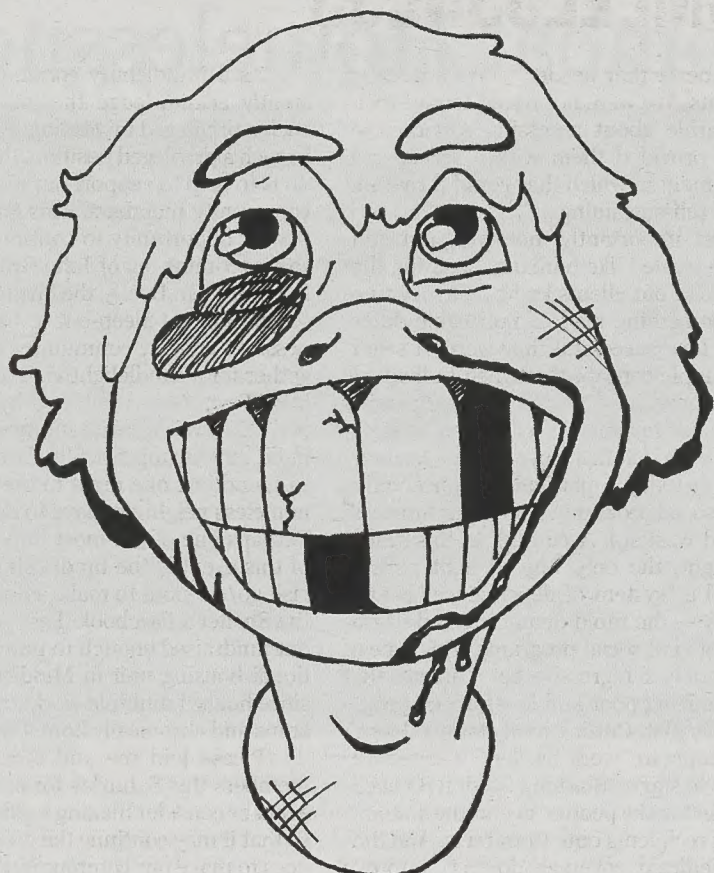
lic Safety and said I was being aggressive towards her. Hear me when I say there is fear in even calling someone out on this campus, because the repercussions can be so much worse for People of Color. I've felt this fear many times before, especially throughout this semester.

This was the third incident of racism I had experienced this semester. The Otter Nonsense “kissed her doorman” and the soccer team's “Mexican jumping bean” posters were the two others. These incidents made me afraid. However small you see them, I spent the next few weeks scared because someone on this campus considered this behavior okay, not unlike the much worse incidents of targeted racism I faced in my community growing up. This on top of me having to stop three belligerently drunk soccer players from trying to shit in the urinals in Proctor and have them tell me that, “they won't have to clean it up so it's not their problem”. Please hear me when I say that however few or many, these people are in our community right now. And this is the baggage I held as I walked up to that girl in Proctor that Saturday night.

So when you say, “You're too sensitive” or “have a thicker skin,” I need you to understand, I have had my thicker skin. I am exhausted. I have had enough. These incidents have been eating away at me all semester, made me afraid to go to class, made me angry with myself and the strangers around me because I do not know whether you are the ones doing these transgressions. It's incidents like these that forced me to move off campus because I do not feel safe in this community anymore. I don't want to be here anymore. On the worst days, I don't even want to be living. These events have had serious, dire consequences on me, and the saddest part is that I'm not the only one. I need someone to hear me when I say that mine is one of too many narratives on this campus that share in these emotions. I need someone to understand that there are consequences to what you are doing. There are consequences that you don't see that are destroying People of Color on this campus. And I need someone to hear me, really hear me when I ask, is it going to take another death on this campus for us to finally understand our actions and enact change?

CARTOONS

The Middlebury Campus

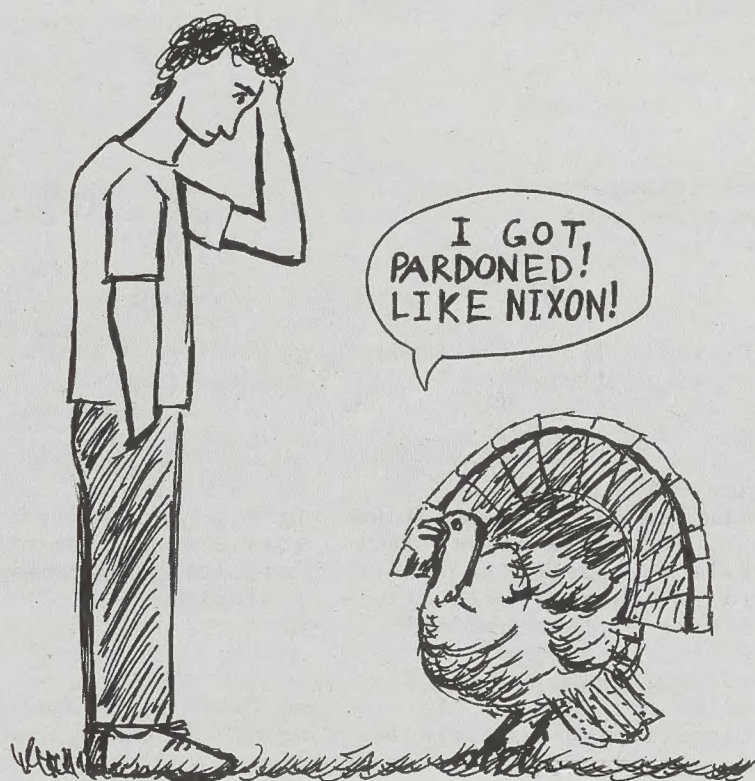


Black Friday Champ

WIN HOMER

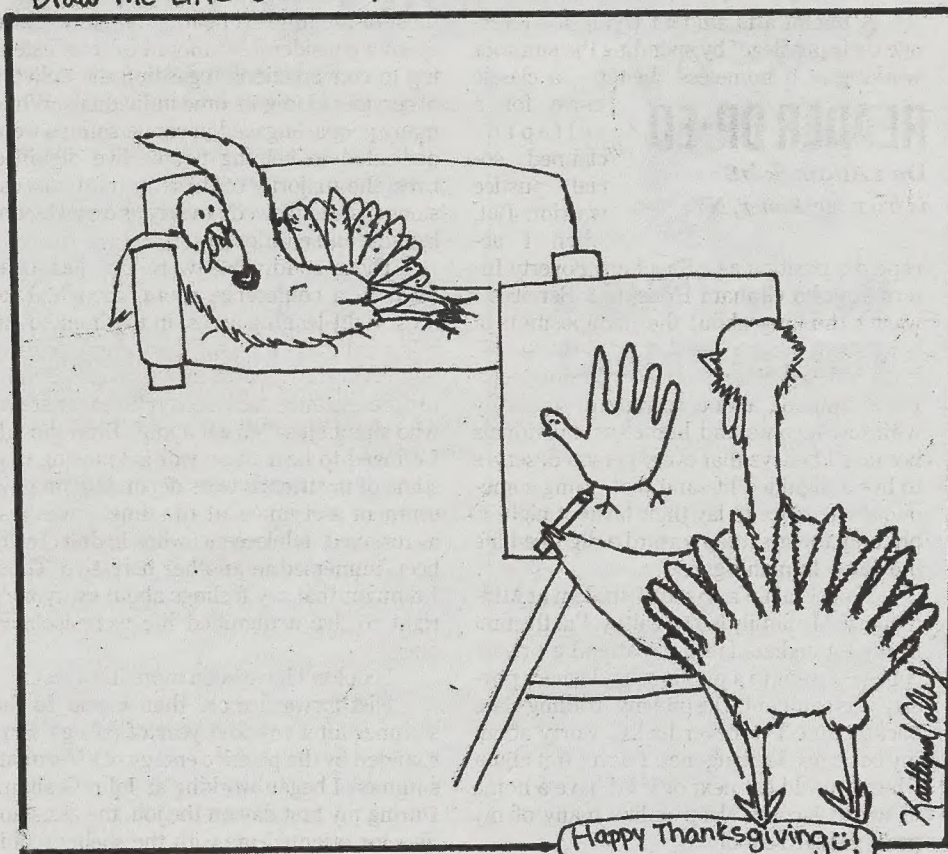


NOLAN ELLSWORTH

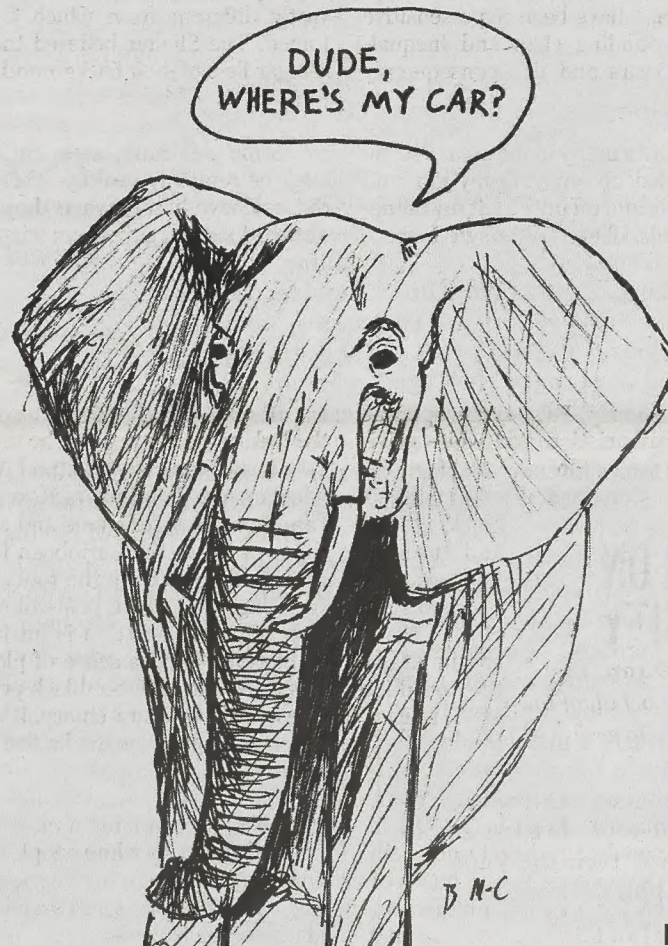


BOONE MCCOY-CRISP

"Draw Me Like One of Your French Birds"



KAITLYND COLLINS



BOONE MCCOY-CRISP

College Cats Abroad by Emily Cox go/comicsbyemily





How is it Still a (Midd) Thing?

By Charlie Ascher
Senior Columnist

If you were to think of the most surefire way to make yourself look stupid what would it be? Answering a question wrong in class? Calling someone the wrong name? Pushing a pull door? Nope. Without a doubt it has to be opening the McCullough mailboxes.

The McCullough mailbox locks have probably caused me more embarrassment than my mouth ever has — and that is saying something. How are these locks still a thing?

Mailboxes are so important here: I probably get what, seven letters a year? Two are pamphlets from the bookstore, four are holiday letters and the last is a cryptic newspaper clipping from my grandma. Big shout out to my grandma for being the only person to make a college-aged male hum the “We Just Got A Letter” song from *Blue’s Clues* as he goes to open his mailbox.

Here’s the thing; when I finally finish humming *Blue’s Clues* songs and go to open my mailbox, I’m faced with a puzzle that would have caged Nic Cage in “National Treasure.” I have yet to check if the solution is hidden in the Declaration of Independence. Nothing cages Nic Cage ... except for the McCullough mailbox locks.

If you have ever had to get mail out of your mailbox, you know what the problem is. Never had a problem opening your mailbox? Congratulations, you’re a master lock picker. I am convinced that opening a Middlebury mailbox in one try is a miracle almost as great as breakfast for dinner.

It should be a straightforward affair. All you have to do is twist a knob to three numbers, turn the knob one more time, and pull the door to you. It just never goes that easily.

The mailboxes can smell fear. You double-check your mailbox combination because despite being a college-aged student able to remember obscure details about the mitochondria (the powerhouse of the cell!), you can’t for the life of you remember three one or two digit numbers. You then double-check the instructions so there is no way you turn the knob the wrong way.

Finally, you muster up the courage to make your attempt. After turning the antagonist wheel with a precision you last used entering your CRNs in Bannerweb, you pull the door only to be met with a thunk.

Convinced that everyone in the mailroom is watching you, you feel like a miserable failure. That’s what the mailbox wants. Maybe it’s the fact that the locks spin in the opposite direction of normal locks, or maybe it’s that finicky last turn at the end, but in any case, these locks are legitimately the worst.

I am utterly convinced that switching out the mailbox locks would decrease student embarrassment numbers by at least 37 percent. This is clearly a switch that needs to be made. It’s time for you to stop feeling like a failure and start feeling like Nic Cage.

How are the mailbox locks still a thing?

Camping For A Cause: Shelter Hosts Sleep-Out to Combat Homelessness

By Hye-Jin Kim
Features Editor

It’s no surprise there’s little overlap between winter-camping enthusiasts and Addison County’s homeless. In our own community, there are those who will have no choice but to spend at least one frigid night outside this winter. While most of us are fortunate enough to lack first-hand experience, sleeping outside frankly sucks (unless there’s a \$200 sub-zero sleeping bag involved).

Though homelessness in Addison County is not as obvious and visible an issue as it is in urban cities, the figures on rural poverty are troubling. According to the John Graham Shelter website, there has been a 54 percent increase in childhood homelessness in Vermont — the number of children rising from 785 in 2009 to over 1,400 this year. More than 3,000 Vermont households were homeless and reliant on emergency shelters in 2014.

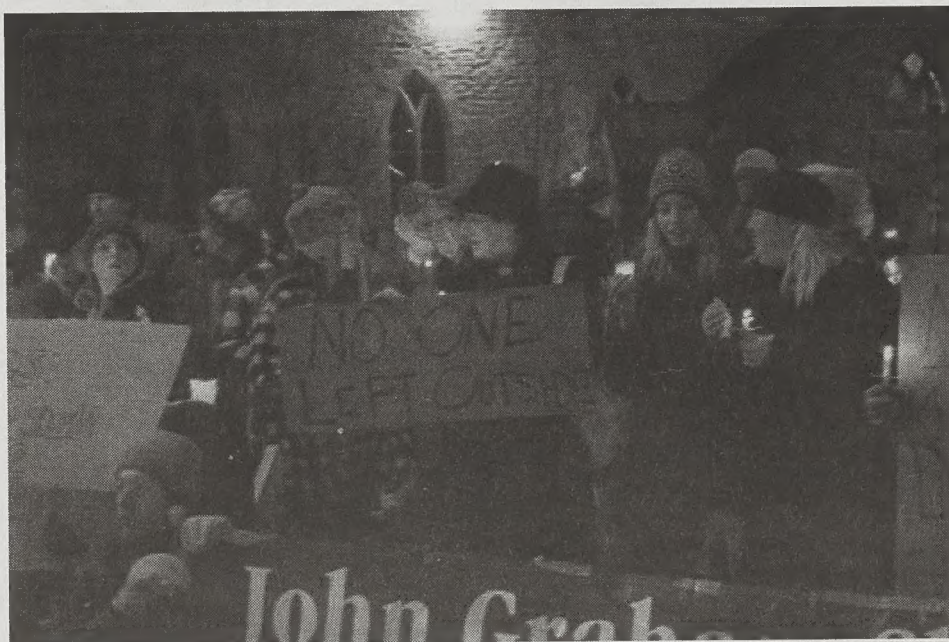
In order to raise awareness and collect donations for Addison County’s homeless, the John Graham Shelter in Vergennes is hosting its second annual sleep-out on Saturday, Dec. 5 at the foot of Otter Creek Falls near Marbleworks. For those willing to sleep outside, albeit more comfortably than those who are homeless, it is an opportunity to raise awareness and collect supplies for those afflicted by rural poverty.

“The shock value of having to sleep in the cold can bolster people to action,” said Dan Adamek ’18, who currently serves on the John Graham Shelter’s Board of Directors. “And sleeping outside is not just about physically facing the elements. There’s the psychological fear of not having a safe, warm place to rest one’s head at night.”

“There’s the psychological fear of not having a safe, warm place to rest one’s head at night.”

DAN ADAMEK ’18

JOHN GRAHAM SHELTER BOARD OF DIRECTORS



COURTESY OF JOHN GRAHAM SHELTER

Participants from last year’s “Sleep Out to End Homelessness” raised over \$30,000 for the John Graham Shelter in Vergennes — enough to buy a transitional housing unit.

Participants from last year’s “Sleep Out to End Homelessness” raised over \$30,000 for the John Graham Shelter — enough to purchase a transitional housing unit. The event will begin at 4 p.m. with a candlelight vigil, followed by a light supper at St. Steven’s Episcopal Church. Sleep-out participants are asked to bring a bag of food, a box of diapers, toiletries, hygiene products, cleaning supplies and a new quilt or set of sheets for the John Graham Shelter.

In the sleep-out’s inaugural year, 40 participants raised over \$30,000.

The money was used to buy a transitional housing unit for homeless members of Addison County before they can be placed in a permanent home. One of the residents of the housing unit had been homeless for over eight years.

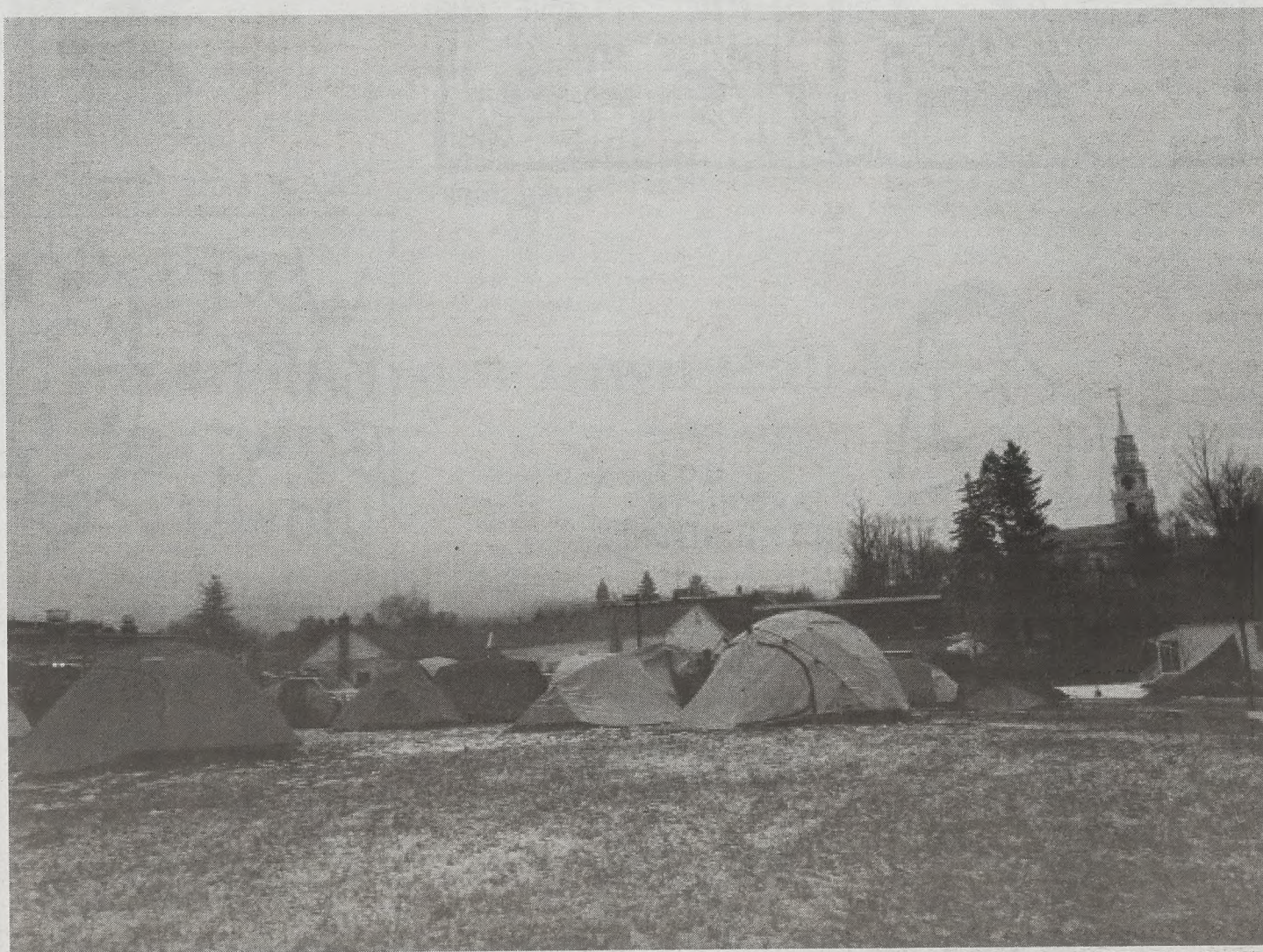
“We’re facing an unprecedented wait-list for people who want to get into homes,” Adamek said. He blamed stagnant wages and rising living costs for the increased demand, noting that the “vast majority” of people at the shelter and in transitional housing were working at least part-time.

As of Sunday, over \$20,000 has been raised for the John Graham Shelter. Adamek said this year’s goal is to raise \$30,000. So far, teams from the Porter Hospital nurses’ union, the Walden Project at Vergennes Union High School, and the College have all signed up for the event.

Charlie Mitchell ’18 decided to attend the sleep-out after volunteering at the Charter House in town. “I’ve witnessed that struggle [of homelessness],” he said. “I’m signing up to have that conversation.”

The John Graham Shelter views homelessness as a community problem that requires a community solution.

“I’m there to raise my own awareness as much as anyone else’s with this experience,” Mitchell said. To donate, visit johngrahamshelter.org.



COURTESY OF JOHN GRAHAM SHELTER

People participating in this year’s “Sleep-Out” will camp at Marbleworks, near the foot of the Otter Creek Falls in Middlebury.

Carbon Countdown: Electricity Use Maintaining Large Carbon Footprint

By Forrest Wallace
Staff Columnist

Beyond emissions from heating and cooling, travel and waste, the College must address emissions from purchased electricity in order to reach its goal of carbon neutrality by 2016. When the Climate Action Plan (CAP) was adopted in 2008, electricity purchases accounted for only 2 percent of the College's total carbon emissions. By 2014, this figure had risen to almost 7 percent. Though this was largely due to a decrease in total gross emissions from heating and cooling, emissions from purchased electricity did rise from 676 metric tons of carbon dioxide equivalent in 2007

to 864 tons in 2014. The College uses about 22 million kilowatt hours of electricity per year. Of this energy, 20 percent is cogenerated on campus by turbines connected to the central heating plant. The steam generated by the plant (from biomass and fossil fuel combustion) drives turbines, which generate electricity. The steam is then piped throughout campus to meet the heating and cooling demand. The remaining 80 percent of the College's electricity is purchased from the Central Vermont Public Service Corporation (CVPS). Because the combustion of biomass is considered carbon neutral, it is this purchased electricity that accounts for the College's net carbon emissions

In order to further reduce net emissions from electricity purchases, the College should continue to focus on reducing electricity consumption.

from electricity usage.

When the College purchases electricity from CVPS, it cannot control the source of the electricity or whether it is carbon neutral. Until 2013, the vast majority of Vermont's power (70 percent) came from nuclear energy, which is carbon neutral. Much of the remainder of the state's electricity came from hydropower, another source of clean energy. Most of Vermont's nuclear power came from the Vermont Yankee nuclear power plant, which shut down in late 2014. Due to this, utilities have since had to purchase electricity from non-renewable sources.

Green Mountain Power, which recently merged with CVPS, predicts that only 55 percent of its fuel mix in 2015 will be renewable, coming from nuclear and hydroelectric

sources. The other 45 percent of its fuel mix will consist mainly of "system" power, which comes from various sources, including fossil fuels. In calculating carbon emissions from purchased electricity, the College must factor this in.

To help reduce net emissions from electricity, the CAP recommended conservation as well as investigating alternative energy sources, such as wind and solar power.

In 2012, well after the CAP went into action, the College installed a small

143kW demonstration solar system near McCardell Bicentennial Hall, which consists of 34 solar trackers. In total, the system produces about 200,000 kilowatt-hours annually, which is only one percent of the College's total electricity consumption. According to the College's website, the electricity generated by this system is enough to power Forest Hall throughout the year.

Though solar power could be used to offset the College's energy usage, it is not currently feasible for large-scale power generation. Because of the relative inefficiency of modern solar panels, the College would need a huge solar system to meet its energy needs. This presents multiple problems, including the physical infrastructure of the system and energy storage.

In order to further reduce net emissions from electricity purchases, the College should continue to focus on reducing electricity consumption. Signs asking students to turn off lights when they leave the room have become increasingly prevalent on campus and help to encourage more sustainable practices. Despite these efforts, there is the sentiment that students are still largely unaware of the impacts of their lifestyle choices on sustainability.

Since 2007, carbon emissions due to purchased electricity at the College have risen by 188 metric tons of carbon dioxide, nearly 30 percent. Though only a small contribution to the College's overall carbon emissions, reduction of electricity usage or a shift toward renewable energy sources will help the College reach its goal of carbon neutrality by 2016.



The College uses about **22** million kilowatt hours of electricity per year. Where does it come from?



20%
cogenerated on campus

80%
purchased from the Central Vermont Public Service Corporation

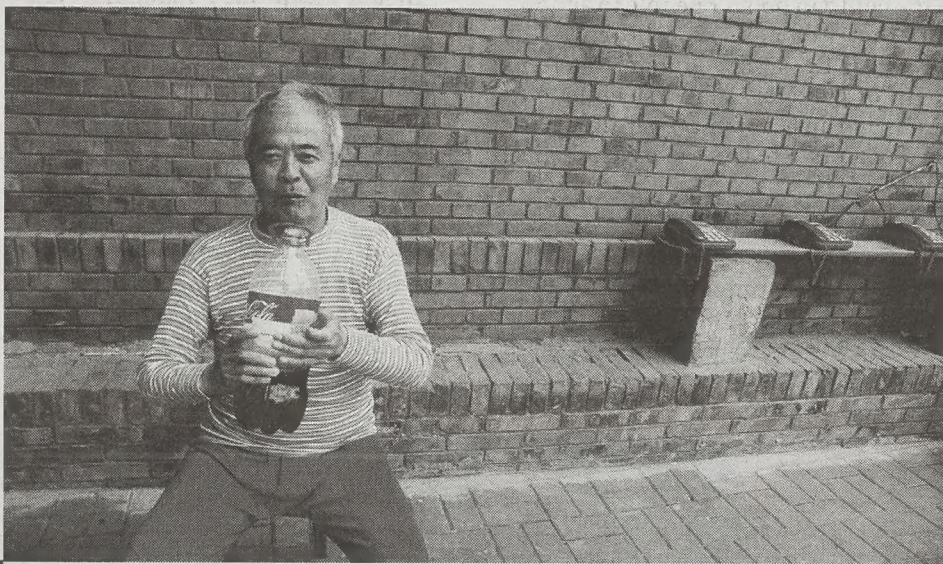
Study Abroad Photo Contest Winners

By Hye-Jin Kim
Features Editor

1st place:

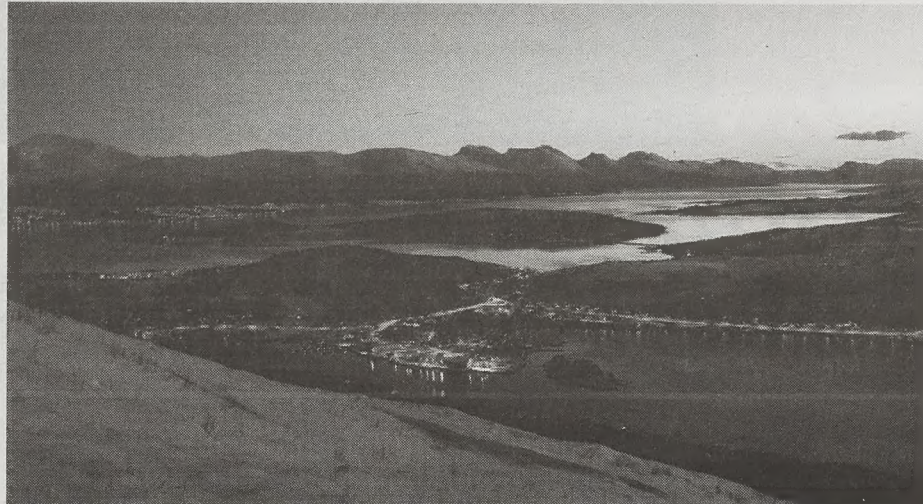
"Coca-Cola Man"
by Anthea Vita Von Viragh
(Beijing, China)

"[This photo] symbolizes how Western influence has impacted traditional China," Von Viragh said. "I submitted this photo because of the vibrant colors and the happiness this photo exudes. Also, I like the reaction people get when they look at this photo. It's usually light-hearted and happy." She used a Nikon D800 to capture this shot.



2nd place: "Firewood" by Noah Stone (Dho Tarap, Nepal).

This village sits at over 14,000 feet elevation, well above the Himalayan treeline. "Men and women travel for as long as three days to collect wood to burn in their homes," said Stone. "It is a testament to just how difficult life can be in the remote reaches of the world." He used a Nikon D5200.



3rd place: "A View From Above" by Demetrius Borge (Tromsø, Norway).

"The story behind this photo is one of multi-national experience," said Borge, who traveled from Prague to Bordeaux to Amsterdam to Oslo before arriving in Tromsø, "where I eventually hiked up to the backyard of the Airbnb I was staying at and took this photo ... it was a nice culmination of my study abroad experience, both literally and physically." Borge used a Canon Rebel T3i.



Wellness Tip of the Week

By Wellness Leaders
Contributing Columnists

The Ideal Nap

Feeling too exhausted to do your work? Studies show that a quick power nap of 10-20 minutes is the perfect length to get your energy back up. Longer naps can cause sleep inertia, or a period of grogginess and reduced performance caused by waking in the middle of deep sleep, although a 90 minute nap goes through a full REM cycle so you can wake up feeling refreshed!

Mental Health News:

- Barbara McCall is hosting a Free Winter Term Workshop focusing on peer to peer support called Student Support Network. Be sure to sign up this week!

-Board games have been made available in Proctor Lounge by the SGA for student use. Connect with your friends over a game of Battleship: stress less, play more!

- On Monday, Dec. 7. there will be free massages in the Crest Room from 1:30 p.m. to 3:30 p.m. to promote relaxation.

-On Tuesday, Dec. 8, Crossroads will host a "Back to Childhood Night" from 4:30 p.m. to 8 p.m.

The Yearbook Question

Reporting by Emilie Munson
Graphics by Cordelia Prouvost

In a meeting on December 1, the fate of a 145-year-old historical document was decided: the College's yearbook.

The first edition of the *Kaleidoscope* was produced in 1873. Since that time, the yearbook has undergone a variety of changes as print and digital technology have evolved and student interest in the publication has waned and waxed.

This year, prompted by discussions on how little students know about the yearbook and how few students want to participate in making it, the SGA sent out a survey to evaluate current student opinion towards the *Kaleidoscope*. For years, the *Kaleidoscope* has been one of the top recipients of SGA funding – yet there has been little conversation about whether the yearbook merits the thousands of dollars it is allocated annually.

After gathering their results, SGA representatives met this week with staff who help create the yearbook and administrators to address their survey findings, as well as budget and production concerns. At the forefront of everyone's minds: do students continue to value the yearbook in today's age of social media?

History

According to alumnus and historian David Stameshkin, "Before the first *Kaleidoscope* was printed, students paid for a special edition of the annual catalogue, which had extra pages listing student groups and their members; but the yearbook has been published nearly every year since its first issue in 1865."

The first *Kaleidoscopes* little resembled today's typical yearbooks: they were small pamphlets with pages for student groups and societies, listing the leadership and members of those groups. The name and year of each student at the College appeared in the *Kaleidoscope*, but fewer than 100 students attended the College each year in the 19th century. There were no photographs – cameras were not widely accessible at

this time.

The first thirty years of the *Kaleidoscope*'s production were rocky. The *Kaleidoscope* was produced each year as a pamphlet from 1873 to 1881, but then production stopped. The publication returned, now in bound book form, in 1894.

In 1900, the yearbook briefly assumed a new name, *The Laurea*, evidently in an attempt to transform itself into a publication with staying power. The yearbook continued as *The Laurea* in 1901 but after that year, yearbook production again halted.

In 1909, yearbook production resumed again under the old name of the *Kaleidoscope*. Since 1909, the *Kaleidoscope* has been created and printed every year, excepting only one: in 1920, World War One prohibited yearbook production and, in general, interrupted campus life as male students left the College to go to war.

In the early years of the *Kaleidoscope*, the book was created by a group of about three students each year. All the pages were handwritten and then mailed to a printing press in Rutland, Vermont. Later, the book was typed and then sent away for printing. The speed of the typewriter allowed the yearbook to grow and with it the yearbook staff: in the 1920s, a group of around 16 students were responsible for production. Into the late 20th century, creating the yearbook was a student activity, operating like other student organizations today.

The Yearbook Today

In recent years, the *Kaleidoscope* has been created by a group of two to three unpaid students in collaboration with the Office of Communications. While certain elements of the yearbook are staples from year

to year—such as senior portraits and photos and records from athletic teams and student organizations—these students have significant editorial power in deciding what goes into the book.

Editor-in-chief of *Middlebury Magazine* Matt Jennings serves as faculty advisor for the *Kaleidoscope*. He teaches yearbook student editors "best practices" and helps them make important editorial decisions.

Unlike at schools such as Dartmouth College where the yearbook staff is mostly composed of photographers, the *Kaleidoscope* staff largely obtains content from other sources such as Athletic Communications, the Study Abroad Office and Jostens, who takes senior portraits. From September through the winter, the yearbook editors devote

themselves to gathering photos and other materials to fill the book.

In the spring, after collecting 90 percent of their content, lay out begins and editors collaborate with the staff of Jos-

tens, a company that sells class rings, class tags and graduation apparel in addition to producing yearbooks. In mid to late summer, the *Kaleidoscope* is in production with Jostens and editors review proofs of the book. Once approved, it is printed in early fall and mailed free of charge to that year's graduates. About 800 copies are printed each year.

As the *Kaleidoscope* contains no commercial advertising, funding for the yearbook comes almost exclusively from the SGA budget. The cost of production, printing and shipping the yearbook totals about \$42,500 each year, or four percent of the entire SGA budget. This entire sum is paid to Jostens each year.

Uses of the Yearbook

The *Kaleidoscope* has many other uses outside of being a nostal-

gic token for graduates. For alumni planning their reunions, the *Kaleidoscope* is instrumental. The book helps them and the Alumni Office develop programming and, in particular, create the class books distributed at the 25th and 50th reunions. In addition, *Middlebury Magazine* regularly uses the *Kaleidoscope* for its Then & Now section.

One of the most important uses of the *Kaleidoscope* is as a historical document recording the people, events and ideas of a year. For the archivists in Special Collections, the yearbook is an invaluable way to learn about the College's past.

"We refer to them all the time," Director of Special Collections Rebekah Irwin said. "It's often a second point of research to understand what [was] happening at the College."

Irwin says the yearbook is priceless for learning about student life at the College, the College's important figures such as Common's heads and the history of students of color. Classes, in particular history courses, often visit Special Collections to examine the *Kaleidoscope* as well as other historical documents.

The SGA survey

In a survey emailed out on October 28, the SGA attempted to gauge student opinion on the *Kaleidoscope*. The survey had 682 respondents who were relatively well distributed across the class years.

The survey found that 86.2 percent of respondents did not know that all graduating seniors are mailed a copy of the *Kaleidoscope* for free.

Student responses were mixed as to whether the yearbook was a good use of the student activities fee. Only one third of students believed it was; the majority of surveyed students thought otherwise. Twenty-nine percent of students said that the money should be allocated to student organizations and on campus activities, instead. Another 20 percent of students said a cheaper alternative should be found. Eighteen percent of students had no preference.

Despite the generally lukewarm support for the *Kaleidoscope*,

"Understandably, students today or very recent graduates don't see a very great value in it. (...) It's not nostalgia for them. It's today."

BILL BURGER

VICE PRESIDENT OF MARKETING AND COMMUNICATIONS

The
Kaleidoscope
over the years

1873

The *Kaleidoscope* is founded.

1881

Production of the *Kaleidoscope* halts.

1894

Kaleidoscope production resumes briefly. The publication is now bound book, as opposed to the small

1900

After a several year hiatus, production of the yearbook resumes but under a new name: *The Laurea*. The *Laurea* is produced for two years.

1909

The yearbook returns under its former name, *The Kaleidoscope*. This year marks the beginning of the yearbook's regularized annual production.



19 percent of respondents indicated that they would be interested in a paid position to help produce the yearbooks.

Chair of the Finance Committee Aaron de Toledo '16, who has been involved in discussions about the yearbook since last summer, explained the value of the survey results to the SGA.

"At the end of the day, the SGA and specifically the Finance Committee, we are an allocation body that is allocating money based on student activities and student interest," said de Toledo. "This is a big allocation of money that we want to know how students feel about it. [The survey] provided some valuable insight there."

Changes this Year

Difficulties producing last year's *Kaleidoscope* have resulted in changes in the production of the yearbook and even discussions in its general value.

During the 2014-15 academic year, the student editor of the *Kaleidoscope* abandoned the job before the finishing the yearbook. Completion of the yearbook fell to Jennings, along with the staff at Jostens. The 2015 yearbook, typically distributed in early fall, has yet to be mailed to graduated seniors.

This episode revealed the folly of the *Kaleidoscope* relying on unpaid students to produce the yearbook. In order to ensure the commitment of this year's student editors, Vice President of Marketing and Communications Bill Burger approved a new budget so student editors of the *Kaleidoscope* will be paid by the College as student employees.

"By making it a paid position, the hope was that someone would really commit to it and that ultimately you might get a better product," said Burger.

Funding for these paid positions, which are B and C level positions on the student employment wage scale, is coming partially from the Office of Communications and partially from the SGA operating budget. Students are currently being interviewed for the position of this year's editor-in-chief of the *Kaleidoscope*.

The SGA hopes these paid positions will allow student involvement in the yearbook to grow so that the *Kaleidoscope* is no longer being made by one person but by a passionate staff.

More changes to the *Kaleidoscope* may be in store as a result of the Dec. 1 meeting. President of the SGA

Ilana Gratch '16 said one of the biggest takeaways of the meeting for her was learning that the cost of producing the yearbook, previously perceived to be "fixed", is actually flexible. Switching from hardcover to soft-cover, scaling down the yearbook and using paper of less quality are all possibilities that could help reduce the price of the *Kaleidoscope*.

De Toledo added that changes made this year are not necessarily permanent but are aimed at building a better future product.

"We're not looking for a year long solution; we're looking for a solution that will build quality and if we have a smaller scaled down product this year, it might be easier to build a quality product," de Toledo said. "Then the next year, scale up a little bit and continue scaling up until the yearbook is where it has been in the past."

The Future of the Yearbook

Some administrators attribute students' lack of interest in the *Kaleidoscope* is the fact that a yearbook gains its value over time.

"Understandably, students today or very recent graduates don't see a very great value in it and I understand why that's the case," Burger said. "It's not nostalgia for them; it's today."

Still, the rise of social media and specifically Facebook makes some wonder if the need for a yearbook is obsolete. Others

counter with worries about the feasibility of saving social media in the same way that the yearbook can be preserved.

"We've been a little frustrated in our efforts to preserve social media," Irwin said, "because we can only essentially preserve a tiny slice of it. I am worried."

Mikaela Taylor '15, a post-graduate fellow in Special Collections, who along with the rest of the Class of 2015 has yet to receive her yearbook, said, "A book is something you will always be able to interact with no matter what software you are using."

Perhaps, instead of simply eliminating the *Kaleidoscope*, the publication should be updated to reflect today's changing world. Many

schools, according to Burger, are struggling with the same questions as the College: how can the yearbook be made relevant to the present generation?

"In the age of social media, there is a great need for innovation and for [the *Kaleidoscope*] to be really, really good," Burger said. "Because the competition is so much greater, in effect, if it doesn't keep evolving and it doesn't keep getting better, I think it's going to look more and more stale."

"I'd love to see the student body come up with some creative solutions to this problem before the SGA completely eliminates the yearbook," said Associate Dean of Students J.J. Boggs, who oversees the yearbook as one of many student organizations.

Jennings thinks the *Kaleidoscope* still has immense potential.

"I feel like we've never really gotten off the ground with what the yearbook could be," Jennings said.

He envisions the *Kaleidoscope* as a memento that editorializes on the past year and provides an additional outlet for the College's talented, burgeoning photographers.

It is this act of 'editorializing' that Irwin believes is most important about the yearbook.

"Its an important task to reflect on your experience and choose the pictures and the text that capture your years as a student. And most of us never do that," Irwin said. "And in some ways, the yearbook asks a group of students to edit and reflect on their time at Middlebury ... without asking a group of students to do that, then it [their four years] just passes by as a moment not reflected on."

Some wonder what it says about the College's community that the *Kaleidoscope* is less valued today than by previous generations.

"I think the fact that our community has not produced this document says a little more than just, 'There aren't three students doing it,'" Taylor said. "We aren't really a cohesive community any more and we don't really have a strong voice, a centralized voice on campus that says, 'This is who we are.' (...) I think it's a lot more complex than: 'Do you want a yearbook for your shelf?'"

19%

of respondents indicated that they would be interested in a paid position to help produce the yearbook.

33%

Of students believe the yearbook is a good use of the students activity fee

Of students said that the money should be allocated to student organizations and on campus activities instead

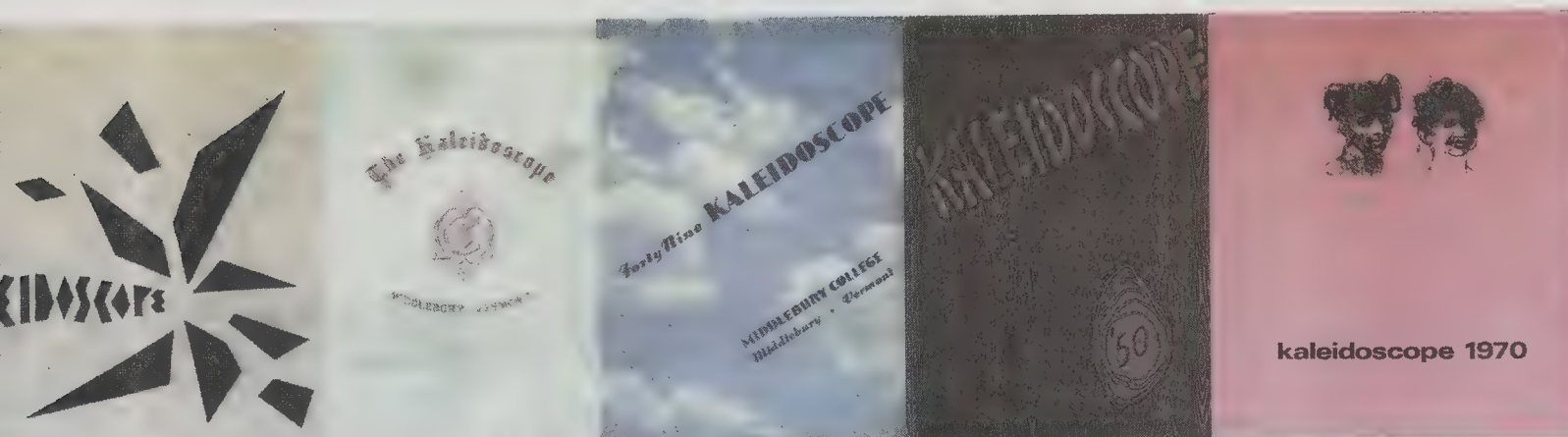
29%

20%

of students said a cheaper alternative should be found

of respondents did not know that all graduating seniors are mailed a copy of the Kaleidoscope for free.

82.6%



1960s-1970s

The *Kaleidoscope* underwent a radical change in this period as the editors opted to eliminate photo captions and student names from the yearbook. Instead, the book was an artistic portfolio of photographs that sought to represent the year. This new form allowed the yearbook to reflect the turbulence and chaos of the era.

1920

The only year since 1909 in which the *Kaleidoscope* was not published. Production may have stopped because many male students were away from school fighting in World War One

2015

Will this be the year that students decide to eliminate the *Kaleidoscope*?

ARTS & SCIENCES

The Middlebury Campus

Middlebury Discount Comedy to Launch

By Elizabeth Zhou
Arts & Sciences Editor

For years, the College has been home to a variety of bands, acapella groups, chamber music ensembles, improvisational comedy troupes and more. Wide-ranging as the performance venues are on campus, however, there still remains much to be explored. This semester, the newly formed group Middlebury Discount Comedy, also known as MDC, is working to fill a niche that has yet to take hold in the College's arts scene: sketch comedy.

As opposed to improv comedy, in which nearly all of the material is conjured at the spur of the moment during the performance, a sketch comedy show is made up of a series of short, pre-rehearsed scenes. Of the 20 people who attended the open informational meeting for MDC at the beginning of the semester, twelve students returned with audition sketches, and have been official members of the group since then: Faraz Ahmad '19, Isabella Alonzo '18, Liana Barron '18, Dan Fulham '18, Shannon Gibbs '18, Alexander Herdman '17, Marney Kline '17.5, Sebastian LaPointe '18, Peter Lindholm '17.5, Jack Ralph '18, Greg Swartz '17.5 and Joseph Haggerty '19.

Founded by Shannon Gibbs '18, MDC is devoted to the creation and interpretation of completely original sketches. In putting together the group, Gibbs explained that she was mainly looking for "a team of writers who could act and actors who could write."

Six members are theatre majors, five serve as main writers and one works as the technical director. Associate Professor of Theatre Alex Draper acts as the group's faculty advisor. Providing guidance in the production aspect of the show, he has helped set the stage for high-quality props, costumes and technical work.

Members of MDC view their work as a unique forum for humor on campus.

"This is a necessary outlet for comedy that I think has been missing from Middlebury and that we are more than happy to supply," Swartz said. "We've become accustomed to certain formats, but there's so much more out there that Middlebury as a school has not really embraced."

"With sketch comedy, you can meticulously craft what you want your product



ANAH NARANJO

Middlebury Discount Comedy will bring silliness and social commentary to their premiere show on Dec. 10 in the Hepburn Zoo.

to be," Dan Fulham explained. "Improv is awesome, but if there is some sort of point, you can focus what you're doing a little more."

For some artists, the pre-written and pre-rehearsed nature of sketch comedy not only provides a mechanism for more nuanced messaging, but also allows for more comfortable expression onstage. Most members of MDC have experimented with improv before, but found it to be incongruent with their natural performance style.

"Improv is hard and scary, because you have a lot of pressure to be funny," Alonzo explained. "So it's impressive to watch the other groups do what they do, but at the same time, I'm very comfortable with scripted things, because I get to read it over and over and interpret it how I want."

Besides starring in a few commercials as a child, Ahmad '19 had not taken part in any performance venues prior to

joining MDC, but described his experience thus far as a "blast." His integration into the group speaks to the accessibility that the sketch comedy format provides.

That is not to say that the organization has not encountered its fair share of challenges, however. In the crafting of completely original sketches, members have inevitably struggled with writer's block.

As Kline explained, "It's hard to get people over the edge to believe that they really can contribute something worthwhile. Coach Shannon has been really good at drawing this out from individuals."

The subject matter behind MDC's original sketches ranges from Atwater to the weirdly sexual nature of how humans pet bunnies to an existential candidate in the 2016 presidential campaign who makes his fear of death all too known to the public. Supplemented by brief one-hit jokes in between sketches, MDC's first

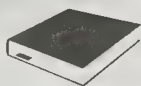
show will premiere at 8 p.m. and 10 p.m. on Thursday, Dec. 10 in the Hepburn Zoo.

Through a healthy dose of "random absurdity," as Fulham put it, the group plans to deliver politically-charged sketches that address on-campus and global issues in a manner that is both silly and thought-provoking.

"I think that there's not enough satire about Middlebury because we're all so busy, so we don't really put our efforts into articulating our thoughts about school in ways more effective than whining in op-eds or to each other," Kline said. "We think that humor is such a powerful tool for getting real, sometimes controversial, opinions out into the public in ways that might enact change."

"Although it's a variety show, we all seem to have come together under this weird amorphous group statement," Gibbs added. "Very post-modern, very Freudian, very odd. But it's going to be really fun."

BOOKING IT



By Abigail Walton
Contributing Columnist

It takes a certain kind of daring to make the main characters of your novel two of the most gifted writers in history: William Shakespeare and Kit Marlowe (more commonly known to us as Christopher Marlowe). Yet author Elizabeth Bear succeeds in this regard.

Like Shakespeare's plays, *The Stratford Man* series is divided into five acts, with *Ink and Steel* holding the first three and *Hell and Earth* containing the latter two. Though splitting up the story disrupts the rhythm, many would consider the cumulative 900 pages to be too long for a single novel, so I understand the publishing decision.

THE STRATFORD MAN

Set during the reign of Queen Elizabeth I, the books open with the murder of Kit, a member of the Prometheus Club who provides services for the queen. Soon after, his roommate, Will Shakespeare, is deemed worthy of being Kit's successor, for he writes

plays that contain enough magic to keep England's enemies at bay. Meanwhile, Kit finds himself in the land of Fay, where he has been saved as a favor to Queen Elizabeth. Knighted by Morgana Le Fay, he drinks water that prevents him from returning to the mortal world for long periods of time and must transfer his loyalty for Queen Elizabeth to Queen Mebd. Yet in a world where "all stories are true," each Queen represents each other and supporting one strengthens the reign of the other as well.

Each act features quotes from both Shakespeare's sonnet and Marlowe's play, creating the illusion that the book holds a true, as-yet-undiscovered history of the era. Bear concocts a wonderful blend of fact and fiction, history and fairy tale and plays and mythologies, allowing the reader to discover the Arthurian legend again. She tries to be as historically accurate as possible, whilst cultivating the characters' personalities beyond the myths that surround these historical figures.

The focus of both *Ink and Steel* and *Hell and Earth* is the relationship be-

tween Will Shakespeare and Kit Marlowe. Both are extremely likable characters who

Bear concocts a wonderful blend of fact and fiction, history and fairy tale, and plays and mythologies, allowing the reader to discover the Arthurian legend again.

we instantly want to succeed, yet the dilemmas they face are truly tragic. The strength of the story lies in the gut-wrenching heartache between Will and Christopher, the hatred, the jealousy and the willingness to sacrifice anything to be with the other. It is these emotions that make the ending we all know is coming so difficult to process. In pushing us to rethink everything we thought we knew about not only William Shakespeare but also Christopher Marlowe's suspicious death, *The Stratford Man* stands as a truly brilliant historical fantasy series.

DON'T MISS THIS

Sound Investment Jazz Ensemble

Middlebury's Sound Investment Jazz Ensemble celebrates the wisdom that "it don't mean a thing if it ain't got that swing" with a program of contemporary jazz compositions
12/5, 8-10:00 P.M. MCA CONCERT HALL

Hirschfield Series: Citizenfour

This Oscar-nominated documentary unfolds the life of Edward Snowden as he hands over classified documents providing evidence of mass indiscriminate and illegal invasions of privacy by the NSA.
12/5, 2-5:30 P.M. DANA AUDITORIUM

Fall Dance Concert

This night of new dance works showcases the choreography of emerging student dance artists at the intermediate and advanced levels, and the annual Newcomers' Piece, choreographed this year by Maree ReMalia.
12/5, 8-10 P.M., MCA DANCE THEATER

Seven Professors Join Science Faculty

By Ben Hawthorne
Contributing Writer

The College has welcomed seven new science and math professors in the last two years.

This year's new professors are Assistant Professor of Neuroscience Amanda Crocker, Assistant Professor of Biology Jill Mikucki and Assistant Professor of Mathematics Albert Kim. Professors who came to Middlebury in the 2014-15 school year include Assistant Professor of Physics Michael Durst, Assistant Professors of Psychology Mike Dash and Robert Moeller and Assistant Professor of Chemistry and Biochemistry Lesley-Ann Giddings.

The hiring spree reflects a growing student interest in the sciences. Science enrollment increased by 6.9 percent between 2001 and 2012, and has continued to grow since then.

These new professors bring their unique research interests to the College, which include everything from medical technology to advanced ice drills.

Durst is developing the use of two photon lasers for biomedical imagery. This technique, which he describes as a much more advanced microscope, can produce extremely high resolution 3D images of tissue in real time. In a demonstration, he produced a real time 3D image of brain activity in a live mouse's brain at a depth of one millimeter. Though the device is currently limited to depths on the order of a few millimeters, Durst hopes to improve the depth penetration through changing the shape of the lasers' pulse and through incorporating nonlinear optics.

His use of light and lasers for biomedical imaging follows in the vein of the team who won the 2014 Nobel Prize in Chemistry, who used a different technique, called "super-resolved fluorescence microscopy," to perform biomedical imaging. Durst says that he is able to get a deeper and better resolution image with his technique than the Nobel Prize winners, but that each one of his images takes a considerable period of time to produce. He is therefore working on combining his research with a novel technique called temporal focus-setting, which he hopes will greatly reduce the time needed per image. Instead of capturing point images, this technique would allow the device to record activity in slices of tissue. As a long term goal, Durst and his team of student researchers aim to miniaturize their device (which currently takes up a several square meter table) to the size of a probe that can be inserted into the body. Colin Laurence '17, who worked in Durst's lab during the summer of 2015, asserts claims that this would be a "revolutionary" advance in imaging technology.

His research is extremely interdisciplinary, both within physics and with other sciences. Within physics, his work combines elements of optics, electromagnetism and quantum physics. He also

brings in chemistry, biology and genetics. According to Laurence, most of this interdisciplinary collaboration will "happen later on, as right now [Durst] is just creating the tool." He also draws on disciplines outside of the liberal arts, particularly engineering and computer programming. He and his research team build much of their equipment themselves, mainly for cost saving reasons.

Mikucki's research is in the field of microbiology, with special focus on microbiology in bodies of water underneath Antarctic ice-sheets (called subglacial environments). She has spent 12 field seasons in Antarctica. This includes multiple years on the Whillans Ice Stream Subglacial Access Research Drilling (WISSARD) project, the first project to confirm the existence of active microbial life underneath the Antarctic ice sheets.

In addition, she was the first to cleanly sample a sub-glacial lake (to sample a lake without introducing biological or chemical contaminants), a feat also achieved in the WISSARD project. Mikucki and her teams have devoted a great deal of their effort to avoiding contaminating the Antarctic environments that they work in.

"We want to collect our samples in a mindful way, as we know that we can potentially change the ecosystem just by sampling, so we want to figure out how we can be the most mindful, minimize our impact and make our impact transient," Mikucki said. "I really want to know what is happening under the ice sheets and I do not want to accidentally see something that came from under my fingernail. So we spend a lot of time figuring out best practices for cleaning our instruments and samples."

Though her drive to avoid contamination is partially to do with needs directly relevant to her research, it also relates to her long-term goals, namely to find life beyond Earth. Many researchers, including Mikucki, see Antarctic research as a staging ground for extraterrestrial research. The applicability of Antarctic research to the search for extraterrestrial microbial life in the solar system was what first got Mikucki interested in her field of research.

"I think this work lends itself to the search for life on other planets, as Antarctica is an analogue in some important ways for places like Enceladus, Europa and even the ice caps of Mars in that they are cold and potentially really salty," Mikucki said. "The other thing is that the mindfulness approach [to avoiding contamination of the local ecosystem] is even more important on other planets, as NASA recognizes. My belief is that we have to be able to pull off clean sampling in Antarctica before we can send a probe or especially a manned mission to these other places."

She also hopes that understanding what enables microbes to live in the cold, dark and often salty environments of subglacial waters will help space agencies



MIDDLEBURY COLLEGE

Assistant Professor of Physics Michael Durst will teach a class on biomedical imaging.

narrow their searches for extraterrestrial life. However, she is careful to note that we may be surprised by the adaptability of extraterrestrial microbes to live in situations that Earthly microbes could not tolerate.

"We'd like to figure out how these microbes are able to deal with these extreme conditions, because that will help us inform our search for extraterrestrial life in ice-covered oceans," Mikucki said. "It would be nice to have some clue of what we might be looking for so we can narrow our search."

Indeed, Mikucki has personally collaborated directly with numerous space agencies. Her graduate work was funded by NASA, and she continues to work closely with NASA, including by working with some of their scientists in the field. She has also used ice drills designed by the German space agency, in large part to test their designs before they are deployed on extraterrestrial probes.

She has worked in several other projects across Antarctica, including at Blood Falls in the McMurdo Dry Valleys (so named because of the iron oxide that colors the waterfall bright red) and on the Antarctic Peninsula. She stresses that Antarctica is an extremely diverse continent, very much unlike the stereotype of it being a homogenous frozen wasteland.

"Antarctica's a big continent; it is the size of the U.S. and Mexico combined," Mikucki said. "And there's not just one type of lake in America, so we should expect a diversity of water systems below the ice sheets. For example, Blood Falls is really salty, and the water there is -7° Celsius, while Whillans is closer to fresh water."

Not all of the new professors come from the traditional professorial backgrounds of academia and scientific research. Kim, for example, was a data scientist at Google before entering academia. He worked in Google's ads department, analyzing which types of ad campaigns and ads worked most effectively. Working with Google's data presented unique statistical problems, as Google's datasets are far larger than datasets that most statisticians work with.

"Google's data set is so big that you cannot fit it on one set of servers; you have multiple sets of servers spread out all over the place," Kim said. "So that definitely led to challenges to analyzing our data; we had to modify traditional statistical methods to work on multiple servers."

He continues to apply statistics and

data science knowledge similar to what he used at Google in his research. His research is in the field of spatial epidemiology – the study of disease across geography – and he is devising methods to detect cancer clusters (locations with abnormally high cancer rates), including using advanced statistical techniques like Bayesian modeling.

However, he cautions that one should not infer from his research that certain locations are more cancer-prone because of geographical factors like contaminated water supply or proximity to power lines. A confounding variable, such as low socio-economic class and inaccessibility to health care, could be influencing cancer rates.

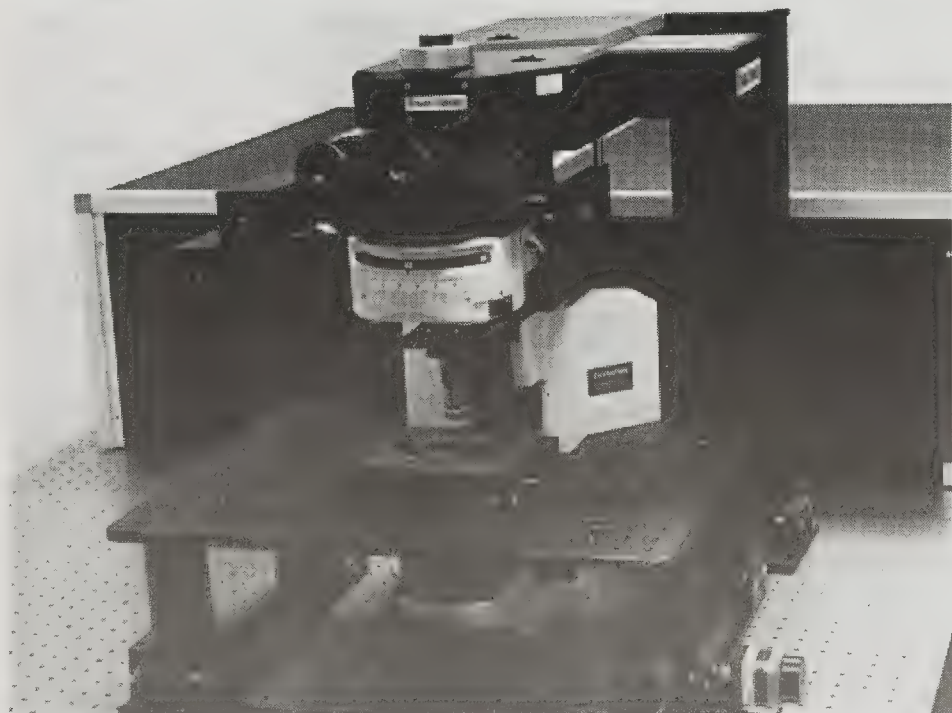
"There's two valid ways we can interpret these data," Kim said. "We could use this as a way to target public health interventions. Or we could control for the things that we already know cause spikes in the cancer rate and see if we maybe find some new unexplained trend that we can investigate."

Professors have many different reasons for choosing to come to Middlebury. Both Durst and Kim emphasized the teaching-centric nature of positions at the College as the main factor in their decisions to teach here.

"When I was a grad student I really enjoyed teaching; I taught my own class even though that wasn't a requirement of grad students," Kim said. "My plan was to work for a little while to get a little experience then to come back and teach. I was always aiming for a liberal arts college, not some big research institution."

Professors are also excited by Middlebury's emphasis on interdisciplinary research and collaboration. Durst, whose research is inherently interdisciplinary, is one example of this. Mikucki was also particularly excited by the prospect of interdisciplinary collaboration, citing it as a main reason for choosing to come to Middlebury.

"I found myself in my research working across disciplines; and the more diverse and farther reaching the collaboration was, and the more difficult it was, the more rewarding it has always been," Mikucki said. "Being new to Middlebury, my outward impression is that this is a place that really works on interdisciplinary collaboration. I felt like Middlebury was a place where you could really press the limits of conventional interdisciplinary studies, and really reach out beyond the sciences and also do some creative and risky science."



UNIVERSITY OF ILLINOIS AT CHICAGO

Michael Durst researches two-photon laser imaging and its application to medicine.

FOR THE RECORD

By Devin McGrath-Conwell
Contributing Columnist

In 2009, Lin-Manuel Miranda read Ron Chernow's biography of Alexander Hamilton and was inspired deeply by his story. A few months later he read what he called *Hamilton Mixtape* at the White House Evening of Poetry, Music and the Spoken Word accompanied by Alex Lacamoire.

Miranda was fascinated with the story of the maverick founding father who overcame seemingly insurmountable odds to champion the U.S. Constitution, found the *New York Post* and defeat competitors such as John Adams, Aaron Burr and others who did not want to take the risks he saw as necessary to help the fledgling nation. Miranda's interest gave birth to a project of rare creativity and historical importance. In February 2015 *Hamilton-An American Musical*, with music, lyrics and book written by Miranda premiered Off-Broadway, and in August it made its Broadway debut.

In telling the under-appreciated story of Hamilton, Miranda assembled a cast made up of underrepresented minority American actors. The music itself is an astonishing eclectic mix of genres rooted by a phenomenal collection of hip-hop and rap numbers, which, alongside its unceasingly original production, deeply distinguishes itself from the majority of the other shows playing on Broadway. The show has received immensely positive critical acclaim and an unprecedented box office response. In September, Atlantic Records released a studio re-

cording by the Original Broadway Cast of the 46 original songs from the show. The result is a remarkably album that allows a glimpse of the incomparable show for all of us who don't yet have the opportunity to see the show on the stage.

The soundtrack opens with "Alexander Hamilton." We are introduced to the eponymous hero when Aaron Burr asks us "How does a bastard, orphan, son of a whore and a Scotsman, / Dropped in the middle of a forgotten spot in the Caribbean by providence / Impoverished, in squalor, grow up to be a hero and a scholar?" He may be asking us, but the musical intends

to tell us in explicit detail the rise of the man. This first song works as one part historical lesson and one part soaring R&B piece that introduces the musical and lyrical themes that will be repeated throughout the soundtrack. This is a practice employed wonderfully by Miranda, who introduces specific genres and melodies with different characters to ground them in their music.

The first act details the landing of Hamilton in New York where he meets Aaron Burr and becomes involved in the politics of the fledgling nation. The song "My Shot" is Hamilton's first solo song and shows us his inner thoughts. Miranda, who plays Hamilton, is a formidable performer and he unloads in this song encapsulating the drive of the soon-to-be-Federalists who rap about their need

to create a truly free nation. Shortly after we are introduced to "The Schuyler Sisters": Angelica, Eliza and Peggy (two of whom will fall in love with Hamilton and provide a touching love story and deliver musical highlights throughout the play). In their introductory piece the sisters sing about "the Revolution happening in New York" and the need for Thomas Jefferson to include women "in his sequel" to the Declaration of Independence. Following the expository pieces of the

first act, "You'll Be Back" is a brilliant song delivered by King George, who is quite sure that the silly American colonies will come

crawling back when he sends "a fully armed battalion / To remind you of my love!"

The remainder of the first act delivers other brilliant songs including "Satisfied", a powerful ballad where Angelica delivers a toast at her sister Eliza and Alexander's wedding realizing she wishes she could be beside Hamilton, and the hip-hop piece "Ten Duel Commandments," which introduces the concept of a duel, which returns later in the play. But all of these songs lead up to "Non-Stop" at the close of Act One, which is one of the standouts in the show. The nearly seven minute song details the non-stop pursuit of equality and reformed government by Hamilton, and builds to a series of emotional crescendos that set-up the tribulations of Act Two, and encompasses

the run of the musical themes in Act One. In Act Two, Miranda fully reveals his melodic and lyrical talent. The second song of Act Two, "Cabinet Battle #1," is a rap battle face-off between now Secretary of the Treasury Hamilton and Secretary of State Thomas Jefferson over Hamilton's financial plan. Jefferson fights against the idea of the consolidation of state debt because Hamilton can't "tax the South cuz we got it made in the shade," but Hamilton retorts with his hot-headed and passionate beliefs by pointing out that most of the South's economic base is gleaned from slave labor. The framing of the debate as a rap battle infuses it with energy and it has both striking and humorous lyrics. Following up a few songs later, we hear "The Room Where it Happens" (my personal favorite song from the show) detailing the conversation between Madison, Hamilton and Jefferson to agree on a financial plan while ceding that the capital would reside in Washington D.C. The song is a daunting jazz composition that is bookended by themes of hip-hop.

To avoid any spoilers for those who do not know the remainder of Hamilton's story, I will end my review here. Even outside of the context of the show itself, the songs of "Hamilton" are a remarkable feat of songwriting. It is an album that contemplates the way that history is told and who chooses what is remembered by the ages. Miranda has chosen a powerful figure to base his songs off, and his talent will no doubt make his brainchild a musical accomplishment for the ages.

HAMILTON: AN AMERICAN MUSICAL

ISO Show Celebrates Cultural Spectrum

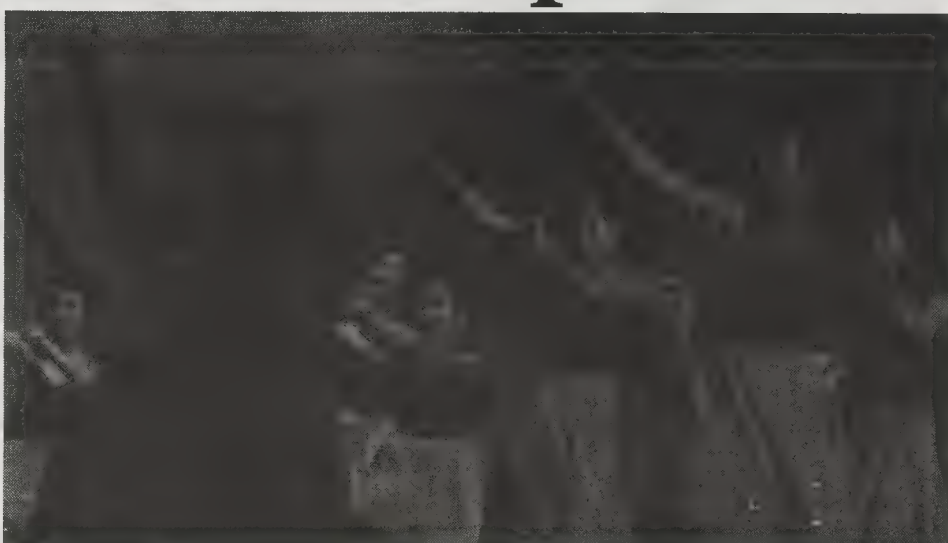
By Cole Merrell
Staff Writer

Walking into Wilson Hall at 7:15 p.m. on Saturday, Nov. 21, I immediately chose a seat in the front section of the auditorium and began scrolling through old text conversations as to appear popular and connected while sitting alone, 45 minutes early. Within 15 minutes, people on both sides began asking about the status of the seats directly next to me ("No, they're not saved, you can take them, I don't have friends"), and by 7:45 p.m., the room was so full that we were asked to pack tightly into our rows in order to accommodate the sizable number of students standing near the entrance who could not find seats.

The board of the 2015 International Students' Organization (ISO) show, "Spectrum," promoted the event as "Middlebury's biggest and most di-

verse show," and it quickly became clear why: There was not an empty chair to be seen and the air was buzzing loudly with excited pre-show chatter. After a few more minutes of scrambling to make sure everyone had a seat, Sarah Karerat '18, Maryam Mahboob '18 and Thomas Gawel '18 stepped onstage. All of the noise in the room quickly coalesced into a uniform body of screaming and clapping. The hosts introduced the show as a celebration of our unique differences, identities and diversity – or, as Gawel said to hysterical applause, "a show about everything Donald Trump hates." Soon, the curtains parted.

Celebrating the 20th anniversary of the ISO, "Spectrum" was the most diversified show that the group has ever preformed. This was reflected both in name and in the incredible variety of the night's performances. Throughout the



MICHAEL O'HARA

Midd Masti closed out the show with an energetic performance of South Asian dance.

evening, afropella, Fijian Meke Dance, traditional Chinese lyric poetry, K-pop, Bollywood dance, Capoeira and many other distinct cultural art forms all took the stage, each doing their part to demonstrate the full range of diversity present at the College.

"Watching the show is perceiving different cultures through the eyes of these young performers, and for me, this is special," Danilo Herrera '18 said. "Middlebury College does a good job of raising important issues about diversity and bring them into discussion ... I believe that the ISO show is an example of how art can affect and transform our perception of these issues in ways that political and social conversations cannot."

Kararat, Mahboob and Gawel all noted the need for the show to be both entertaining and educational. Combined with their own diverse backgrounds, communication amongst each other helped them to figure out what was appropriate to say. The trio opted out of using pre-written comments, instead allowing their jokes and remarks to be situational. The ability of the hosts to respond to the performers in a genuine, non-scripted way helped to give the show a sense of improvisational lightness. At one point,

the audience was told not to fear the "scary accents" of a Russian group because the Cold War was long over. The auditorium erupted in laughter, and a student behind me exclaimed, "It's so not politically correct, and I love it!"

"Spectrum" was fantastically entertaining, with 139 energetic performers coming together to celebrate diversity in every sense of the word. The ISO show succeeded in both juxtaposing a myriad of art forms from many cultures and emphasizing the core values that exist in all of us, no matter our background.

Perhaps the embodiment of the spirit of the ISO came before the show actually started, however, when the audience was asked to take a moment of silence for the recent tragedies in Paris, Beirut and other areas in the world experiencing conflict or exploitation. For a minute, we all stood in quiet solidarity, fully aware of our differences but unified in an empathy that transcended cultural lines.

At the College, we truly are members of an international community, and the ISO show was proof that celebrating our diversity is also a way of recognizing our human similarities. After all, in Gawel's words, "when it comes to K-Pop and Bollywood, we all go bananas."



MICHAEL O'HARA

Students put modern Japanese dance moves on display in an upbeat performance.

PERFORMING ARTS SPOTLIGHT

By Connor Forrest
Senior Columnist

I am tired of the empty, easy-come-easy-go gratification of most of the things I watch these days. Don't get me wrong, sometimes all I want is two hours of slack-jawed vegetation, but recently I have been thirsting for more.

Middlebury's event listing describes *Clickshare* as a play about "a group of employees at a popular news website who live and die by the viral content of their pieces. But when they break a story that's bigger than anything they've ever seen before, their lives hang in the balance." I am here to promise you that it is so much less melodramatic and so much more gratifying than such a description would suggest. Rather than hiding out in your room this weekend and putting on a unfulfilling movie that you will forget as you shuffle back from your post-credits bathroom visit, come down to the MCA and immerse yourself in a play that will leave you both stimulated and satisfied.

The playwright, Lucas Kavner '06.5, is a Brooklyn-based writer, performer and comedian from Plano, Texas who possesses an incredible gift for what *New York Magazine* describes as "artfully underwritten, unaffectedly colloquial and often uproarious dialogue." Since graduating from Middlebury, Kavner has been filling newspapers, televisions, stages and websites with his evocative and critically acclaimed works.

Like the best of Kavner's writing, both his major 2011 play, *Fish Eye* (a critic's pick in *Time Out* and a featured work in *New York Magazine's* Best Theatre of the Year list) and his 2013 play, *Carnival Kids* (a critic's pick of *The New York Times*), approach intimately pertinent topics with brilliant ingenuity and humor.

According to one critic, *Fish Eye* "explodes the traditional chronology of romance and offers a modern take on the impossible exhilaration of love — when nothing means everything and everything means nothing — and the entire world shrinks down to a single moment." Meanwhile, *Carnival Kids* was hailed by

The New Yorker as "a hilariously funny ode to slightly immoral and irresponsible losers."

When asked what motivates his writing, Kavner stated that he likes "writing that doesn't feel like it's trying to be smarter than everyone else in the world" and loves "when even the most serious of plays with the most serious of topics manage to be hilariously funny."

Most people would agree with Kavner's sentiment that he wants "more messy plays that don't wrap up in a nice little package and you forget about five seconds later." *Clickshare* is certainly one such play.

Onscreen, he has acted in or written for projects with Comedy Central, ESPN, VH1, ABC, Netflix and Dreamworks. His comedy videos have garnered millions of views online, and have been featured on the BBC, MSNBC, NPR and online in *The New York Times*, *Huffpost*, *Time*, *Gawker*, *Vanity Fair* and *The Atlantic*, among other places.

When not writing for the stage and screen or acting, Kavner composes essays for *The Washington Post*, *The Believer*, *New York Magazine*, *The New Yorker*, *Slate*, *Dallas Morning News*, *The Billfold*, *Flavorwire* and *McSweeney's*. Along the way, he also spent three years as a staff reporter and videographer at *The Huffington Post*.

Scrolling through his hundreds of articles and projects, I was most captured by *The Days of Yore*, a website Kavner co-founded in 2013 to host interviews with some of the most celebrated artists and writers in the country about their pre-fame years.

When asked what kind of theater he finds most inspiring, Kavner responded, "I love plays that don't go where you think they will. I hate things that are too clean or overwritten or plot-heavy. Any time I see the writer's writing onstage, when a character is too consciously well spoken, I immediately tune out. Early on, I tried really hard to always write to the left of what the characters really wanted to say, so when they say exactly what they're thinking, it becomes startling, rather than some over-eloquent



COURTESY THEATRE DEPARTMENT

Written and directed by Middlebury alums, *Clickshare* will premiere this weekend.

norm. I also tend to love things I'd never think of writing myself ... I like seeing plays about underdogs, about people whose stories aren't getting told anywhere else."

Although Kavner has not said where the vision for this particular work originated, *Clickshare* was first developed at the Middlebury Summer Play Labs. Taking place in August, the labs offer students the opportunity to flourish creatively in a non-academic setting. Current students are paired with experienced alumni to develop ideas, generate art pieces and learn valuable career skills related to the theatre and film industries.

Kavner absolutely loves what he does, but if he could change one thing about theatre, it would be the cost of attendance.

"We all say it," he said, "but affordability is just the biggest thing. If the people who actually love theater, who are active members of the community, can't afford to see it, that's such a pro-

found problem. The affordability thing ends up playing into so many other things, too. Because when only old, rich, white people can afford to see new plays, then the plays have to cater to the old, rich, white people. And that often leads to very boring plays."

Luckily, the College has addressed the affordability problem. Tickets to *Clickshare* are only \$6 for students, so show your support by walking down to the MCA this Thursday, Friday or Saturday (Dec. 3-5) at 7:30 p.m. or Saturday at 2:00 p.m. Friday's performance will also feature a talk with Kavner, Theatre Professor and Director Alexander Draper and the cast. You will not want to miss this hilarious and evocative play as it offers a dark satire of Internet culture in the age of viruses, both real and imagined. It was written by a Midd kid and directed by a Midd kid — it is only right for it to be attended by Midd kids. Visit go/boxoffice or stop by either of the box offices in McCullough or the MCA for tickets.

Roadkill Tells Intimate Tale of Sexuality

By Rebecca Coates-Finke
Contributing Writer

Signs directed the way to the Bunker in Freeman International Center as audience members made their way to the premiere of *Roadkill*, the senior work of Tosca Giustini '15.5 and Leah Sarbib '15.5. Running from Nov. 19-21, the devised play explores four different friends' connections to a girl named Lindsey McPherson, described by Giustini as "a reflection of the other characters, their hopes and desires." At various points throughout the play, each character shares stories about their relationship with this girl, all of which are sexual or romantic in some way.

The story takes place in a world that producer and director Giustini called "a heightened representation of our media's obsession with sex." While the main action follows four friends, played by Kathleen Gudas '16.5, Lorena Neira '17, Will Lupica '18 and Kean Haunt '17, on a road trip to New York City, the underlying socio-cultural commentary unfolded through recordings created by Sarbib. If these recordings sounded familiar, it is because they were written and recorded in the style of their inspirations, which included the organization Christian Mothers Against Masturbation, literature based on *Harry Potter* and *The Deathly Hallows*, an NPR segment and more.

Sarbib referred to scenes featuring the recordings as "unreality scenes," since they offered "a good way to make the points that we couldn't make with

the characters and a good way to preserve some of the work we did with the actors in rehearsal."

The set was cleverly constructed, with metal poles forming the car in which the majority of the play takes place. When four of the characters get in a car accident near the end of the show, the actors meticulously disassembled the metal pieces, transforming the skeleton into a wreck at their feet. Small white pieces of paper decorated the floor, enabling the performers to create a dreamlike atmosphere as they tossed them into the air.

Throughout the show, Lindsey McPherson, played by Caitlyn Meager '17, represents and articulates taboos and myths of sexuality. From everyone else's point of view, her character is all-knowing and constantly in control. She has also caused her friends a great deal of frustration and anger, leading them to finally confront her at a club in New York City. In this way, the car ride becomes a space of empowerment for the other four characters.

For the audience, these confrontations, while harsh, felt necessary and real. After all, these are people recognizing their hurt and claiming that they deserve better. But once Lindsey McPherson is left alone on stage, we are given the opportunity to see something softer and far more complicated, as she ends the play repeating, "I just want to be loved."

Last weekend's performance of



MICHAEL O'HARA

Four friends embark on a road trip in a story of empowerment and confrontations.

Roadkill succeeded in being both funny and poignant. Because so much of the content was drawn from media representations in our lives and from the personal experiences of college students, the work was also vastly relatable for many viewers.

In describing her influences, Sarbib wrote: "... the line between our real

lives and our play lives often got blurry — we'd end up talking about the play all the time and things from our lives would inspire ideas outside of rehearsal ... I've been influenced by things I've seen and lived and this idea has been brewing for so long now that, with a few exceptions, it's difficult to pinpoint what comes from where."

MIDDLEBURY FILM SOCIETY PRESENTS:

SCREENING AND DIRECTOR Q&A

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SALAM NEIGHBOR



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Men's Basketball Searching for Answers with 2-4 Start

By Joe MacDonald
Sports Editor

The men's basketball team has endured an up-and-down start to the 2015-2016 campaign, compiling a 2-4 record in the early going. Center Matt Daley '16 and guards Jake Brown '17 and Matt St. Amour '17 have served as the backbone of this young but otherwise talented roster.

The Panthers began their season with some tournament action hosted by Medaille College in the Western New York Knee and Orthopedic Tournament. Despite the comical name of the setting, Middlebury's competition proved no joke, and the Panthers limped home with an 0-2 record.

The opening matchup saw Middlebury pitted against a hot-shooting Baldwin Wallace squad on Friday, Nov. 20. The Panthers took a seven-point deficit into halftime, but the Yellow Jackets exploded for 54 points in the second half and held a 24-point advantage with just over five minutes to play in a game that Middlebury eventually lost 97-87.

St. Amour was a bright spot for Middlebury, lighting up the scoreboard for a career-high 33 points on 7-17 shooting (3-6 3PT FG) and an insane 16-20 from the stripe, and has been relied on early on to become the team's go-to scorer.

"I am comfortable with it," St. Amour said, "but there are a lot of other guys that can score so I don't need to force it."

Guard Jack Daly '18 got his first collegiate start and tallied seven points, seven boards, four assists and two steals.

The Panthers fell again the following day to St. Lawrence University, 63-57. This time the damage was done early by the Middlebury opponents, as SLU led by 11 at halftime. St. Amour once again led Middlebury in scoring with 15. Forward Connor Huff '16 did his best Charles Barkley impression, scraping up 12 boards in 25 minutes off the bench.

The Panthers finally broke the ice with a 80-63 win at SUNY-New Paltz on Tuesday, Nov. 24 and were able to enter their short Thanksgiving break on a high note. Middlebury showed early on that they were the superior club to the now 1-4 New Paltz Hawks. Daley had 10 points and six boards in the first half alone as nine different players contributed to the Panthers' 45 first-half points — most of which came from the interior. Middlebury held the Hawks to 27 first half points on 10-33 (30.3 percent) shooting from the field.

For the game, Daley finished with 19 points and 10 boards, and Brown and Daly nearly joined him with double-doubles of their own. Brown tallied 10 points and seven assists while Daly racked up nine points and eight dimes.

The Panthers were once again stymied in the opener of the University of Rochester Holiday Inn/Airport Tournament, losing 70-55 to No. 25 Oswego State. Middlebury was ice cold from the field, going just 20-63 (31.7 percent) from the field, 4-17 (23.5 percent) from deep and 11-23 (47.8 percent) from the free throw line.

Oswego didn't shoot much better

percentages, but 25 makes on 39 trips to the line gave Oswego the advantage. St. Amour once again led the Panthers with 23 points and Daley snagged 11 boards, but their efforts were not enough to get a victory.

Middlebury did earn its second win of the young season with a consummate 103-63 victory over in-state opponent Johnson State. The story of the game was a 60-20 advantage for the Panthers in the rebounding department. The Panthers' 27 offensive boards led to 28 second-chance points compared to just one for Johnson State.

Multiple players put up impressive stat lines. Daley earned his second double-double of the year with 15 points and 10 boards. St. Amour and Huff both scored in double digits with 17 and 10, respectively. Guard Bryan Jones '17 scored a career-high 14 points, and guard Zach Baines '19 set his own career high with ten points. Forward Nick Tarantino '18 (12 rebounds) and forward Eric McCord '19 (10 rebounds, nine points), both made big impacts off of the bench.

Middlebury suffered a heartbreaker, 68-66, on the road at Rensselaer on Tuesday, Dec. 1. Brown's career-high 20 points and Daley's third triple-double were not enough to top 4-1 Rensselaer. The Panthers entered halftime down 33-24 after shooting just 34.2 percent from the field and going 0-5 from beyond the arc, but chipped away after halftime and had a chance to win the ball game late.

St. Amour tallied six points in a stretch of one minute and 38 seconds, shrinking

the deficit to three points with 1:43 to go. With Rensselaer up 65-62, Daley grabbed a rebound off of a missed three-pointer from Rensselaer's Tyler Gendron and pushed the ball up the court, but the Panthers' turned the ball back over on a St. Amour charge in the paint. Rensselaer missed a jumper on their next possession, giving Middlebury hope once again. Brown then dropped in a two-pointer off of an offensive rebound to tighten the score at 65-64.

Both teams proceeded to make a pair of free throws, and Middlebury fouled to send their opponent to the line with six seconds to play. After Jonathan Luster missed the second of his free throws, the Panthers tried to get up the court for a chance at a game-tying two, but were unable to get a shot off, closing the door on a possible comeback.

The Panthers are now 2-4, a disappointing start for a team with lofty aspirations, but there are bright spots to point out, both as a team and individually.

"It's still really early in our season and we are still learning to trust each other with our plays and defensive rotations," St. Amour said. Playing very good teams early, they have been able to expose our early season mistakes but the more we've worked together the better we have gotten.

"Jack Daly and [Connor] Huff have been very strong contributors so far, both offering a lot of toughness into our starting five."

Middlebury meets Johnson St. once again on Thursday, Dec. 3, and will open its home schedule with Castleton on Tuesday, Dec. 8.

Cross Country Finishes Season at NCAA Championship

By Jackie Kearney
Staff Writer

On Saturday, Nov. 21 both the men's and women's cross-country teams competed at the NCAA National Championship at University of Wisconsin-Oshkosh in Winneconne, Wisconsin this past Saturday. It was a chilly day with highs in the upper 20's, but the Panthers made the most of it. Facing challenging conditions and competition, both the men and the women's teams posted impressive finishes in the final meet of the season.

On the men's side, Sebastian Matt '16 earned All-American honors, as did Abigail Nadler '19 for the women as they both finished in the top 35 places overall.

The men finished 24th in a field of 32 teams, while the women were eighth in a similar field of 32 teams.

Nadler led the women's team with a 28th place finish.

"I just tried to stay in the lead pack and remain relaxed," Nadler said. "I was struggling near the end but overall I'm happy with my race. Everyone on the team put it all out there and we should be happy with that."

Adrian Walsh '16 (53), Erzsie Nagy '17 (94), Sasha Whittle '17 (142) and Katherine Tercek '16 (152) followed Nadler to complete

the team scoring. Also racing were Nikki Schachman '16 (187) and Emma

DeCamp '17 (216). Outside of the Middlebury team, Williams won the national championship and Abrah Masterson of Cornell College was the individual champion.

On the men's side, Sebastian Matt '16 finished as an All-American in 17th place. Chony Aispuro '18 (92), Brian Rich '17 (137), Sam Cartwright '16 (229) and Kevin Serrao '18 (245) scored the rest of the points for Middlebury. Conor Evans '19 (253) and Sam Klockenkemper '17 (267) also

"It wasn't the best race we've run, but it was the best race we could have run."

SEBASTIAN MATT '16

competed. For the men, Wisconsin-Eau Claire won the championship and Ian LaMere of Wisconsin-Platteville claimed the individual title.

Matt felt reflective after his final race as a Middlebury panther.

"It was an incredible day," Matt said. "Coming back from a draining regional race, we gave it our all. It wasn't the best race we've run, but it was the best race we could have run. Mickey came in clutch, leading us from the beginning to the end."

This wraps up the season for the cross-country teams, but shortly we will see many of them race out on the track. There will be many of the same matchups and it promises to remain exciting.

Squash Teams Split Opening Games

By Will Case
Senior Writer

Before Thanksgiving break, men's and women's squash travelled down U.S. Route 7 to Williamstown, Mass. for a tournament at Williams College on Saturday, Nov. 21. The Panther men and women were in action against Cornell Saturday afternoon, and the men's squad also took the court against Western Ontario in a pivotal match for year-end national tournament seeding.

For both the men and women, Cornell was going to be a tough match from the outset. The Cornell women entered the day ranked sixth in the country, while the Cornell men ranked 12th.

The women's squad dropped all nine of their matches; although this seems like a tough way to start the season, the Panthers saw plenty of bright spots. Most notable was the play of two first-years, Bea Kuipers '19 and Alexa Comai '19, who were second and fifth in Middlebury's ladder.

Kuipers gave Cornell junior Rachel Scherman a very good match, even taking the first game 14-12. While Kuipers lost the next three sets — tallying six, four and five points respectively — she put up an impressive fight in her first collegiate match against a competitor ranked 28th in the nation.

Like Kuipers in the second slot, Comai pushed Cornell sophomore Charlotte Knaggs to her limit in the fifth slot. Comai also won the first set of her collegiate career 14-12 before narrowly surrendering three games in a row. She dropped the second set and the decisive fourth set to Knaggs 11-6. The real turning point of the match was when Comai lost the third game 11-9, falling just short of a 2-1 lead that would've carried her into the

fourth game.

"I felt strongest when I controlled the pace of the game and made [Knaggs] play my game instead of hers," Comai said. "I thought the strongest part of my game was changing directions and moving her up and down the court ... to set up opportunities for ... attacking shots."

Moving forward into their tough schedule to come, women's squash knows they are still in a good position for success this season.

Senior co-Captain Tiffany Hau '16, who held the fourth slot on the ladder against Cornell, explained that the team has "never been more fit," which is very important in "such a physically demanding sport."

"I think it's great that we are able to play some of the stronger teams early on in the season because it prepares us for later on in the season when we play some of our closer rivals such as Bates and Williams," Comai said.

The men's squad did not fare much better than the Panther women against Cornell, with Wyatt French '17 tallying the lone match victory for the Panthers. French clinched a win in four sets, winning three straight after dropping the first game 8-11. His three straight wins (11-6, 11-5 and 11-9) did not come easily, but French's adjustment to a more patient pace allowed him a match victory against Cornell first-year Perry Hanson.

"In the first game against Hanson I played well but I made a couple of bad decisions going for kill shots at the wrong time and hitting the tin," French said. "In the next couple of games I decided to be more patient and really wait until the perfect opportunity to attack. I was able to control the pace and

retrieve most of his attacking shots and he started to get impatient and hit some tins."

Regardless of Middlebury's performance against Cornell, the men's match against Western Ontario held the most importance in regards to post-season seeding. The Panthers rebounded from their 8-1 loss to the Big Red with an equally decisive 8-1 victory over the 19th-ranked Mustangs.

Once again, French led the way for the Panthers from the third slot on the ladder with a dominant three-set sweep (11-3, 11-4 and 11-6).

"Defensive game and movement were working well for me," French said, reflecting on his first weekend of play at Williams. "Williams' courts are hot and fast, which really helped me execute my defensive, up-tempo game."

With solid performances from Henry Pearson '17, Will Kurth '18, Ben Krant '17 and Sam Giddins '18 on the bottom half of the ladder, French's continued improvement would sure-up the top of the Panthers' lineup as the season continues to heat up.

"My defensive game has always been my strength, and to have a more well rounded game I need to attack more," French said.

Head Coach Mark Lewis has implemented specific exercises in practice to help French and his team strengthen their attacking game.

As a result of this training, French says he "will look to attack more and build confidence in [his] drops and volley drops" in the next few matches.

The Squash teams will head to Clinton, N.Y. to play at Hamilton College this Saturday, Dec. 5. Both squads face Hamilton at 2 p.m., and the men will play a second match against Hobart at 5 p.m.

THE MIDDLEBURY GREAT GR8 EIGHT

RANKING	TEAM Rigas' Reasoning.
1	FIELD HOCKEY #1 without a doubt. Congrats!
2	CROSS COUNTRY Eighth in the entire country is pretty good.
3	WOMEN'S BASKETBALL Catherine Harrison '19 won NESCAC player of the week. Yes, she's a first-year.
4	WOMEN'S HOCKEY Tough loss to Elmira, but they looked dominant at home.
5	MEN'S HOCKEY 1-0-1 in the NESCAC.
6	SQUASH The men dominated no. 19 Western Ontario.
7	MEN'S BASKETBALL Hopefully the 40-point win over Johnson St. is a sign of things to come.
8	SWIMMING Tough start to the season

Jennings Scores Only Goal of Championship Game

By Nicole Roos
Staff Writer

The women's field hockey team won their second ever NCAA Championship on Sunday, Nov. 22 on Washington and Lee's Turf Field. The Panthers (20-2) beat no. 3 The College of New Jersey 4-1 in Saturday's Nov. 21 semifinal matchup before defeating top-ranked Bowdoin in the championship game on Sunday, Nov. 22.

"Our journey to the national championship really started with the tone set by the seniors and coaches at the beginning of the season," Emily Miller '17, the team's starting goalie, reflected. "All the seniors made it known ... from day one of preseason that our goal ... was to win the National Championship."

Miller describes a memorable moment after the Panthers broke their three-year winning streak by losing to Bowdoin in the NESCAC Championship.

"We were all standing together after the game, kind of sad, and one of our seniors [said], 'Two words: national championship.' [The loss] stung, and I think that ... spurred us to go on to be so driven and dominant in the rest of our games this season."

In the rematch of last year's semifinal

game, where TCNJ defeated the Panthers before going on to win the national championship, Middlebury struck first and early. Pam Schulman '17 netted the first goal of the game at the four-minute mark after Shannon Hutteman '16 redirected a penalty corner insertion her way. Just six minutes later, Annie Leonard '18 tallied her team-best 24th goal off a pass from Grace Jennings '19 to put the Panthers up 2-0. With the goal, Leonard moved into fourth place in Middlebury's single-season record book. Twenty minutes later, Caroline Knapp '18 sent in a rebound off a penalty corner to give the Panthers a 3-0 lead. TCNJ responded with a few good scoring opportunities, but impressive saves by Panther goalie Miller and the defensive line led by Jillian Green '16 kept the Lions scoreless for the remainder of the first half.

The Panther's offensive line came out strong in the second half, and Schulman was able to send another ball past the Lion's goalie for a 4-0 lead at the 41:54 mark. With just over six minutes remaining in the match, TCNJ got on the board when Jaclyn Douglas redirected a shot past a diving Miller.

The Panthers held an 8-6 advantage in shots and 3-2 advantage in penalty corners. Miller finished with two saves for the win, while Lions goalie Schlupp was credited with three stops.

With the win, the Panthers advanced to the championship game on Sunday against NESCAC foe Bowdoin. Top ranked Bowdoin had given Middlebury their only two losses of the season.

"To get to the national championship we had to beat teams that were ranked sixth, fifth, and third in the country [while] Bowdoin had to beat teams ranked fourth, eighth, and unranked," Miller pointed out. "So [we came into the final four] ready and knowing how to fight through a really tough game. I think this gave us a bit of a mental edge over Bowdoin ... who came in undefeated, and had yet to play from behind all season."

The first twenty minutes of the game were largely played in the midfield, with a few good scoring opportunities by Bowdoin. Miller, though, made a kicking save to keep the game scoreless. On Bowdoin's first penalty corner of the game, Kelsey Mullaney had her first shot blocked and second attempt saved by Miller. Immediately following the corner, the Panthers made a quick transition and began an offensive attack. A Bowdoin defender tipped a pass from Schulman, and Jennings collected the ball in the middle of the circle before ripping a shot past the Bowdoin goalie to gain a 1-0 advantage. The Panthers were able to hold on to the advantage for the remainder of the first half.

"[Since] we scored first and in the first half, for the rest of the game we were in a familiar position of having maintain the win, while they were in a new position of having to come from behind," Miller said.

Early in the second half the Panthers were awarded four penalty corners in a three-minute stretch, but were unable to capitalize on any of the scoring opportunities. Bowdoin drew a pair of penalty corners in the 59th and 60th minutes, but Miller made two great saves to maintain the Panther's advantage. In the 62nd minute, Bowdoin had another pair of scoring attempts, the best coming from Liz Znamierowski whose shot after a rebound hit the right post and bounced away. The Polar Bears were unable to convert any of their attempts in the final minutes as Middlebury held on for the national title.

Bowdoin finished with a 17-14 advantage in shots, while Middlebury held a 9-5 advantage in penalty corners. Miller finished with six saves in goal to earn her eighth shutout of the season, while Belitz made three stops for the Polar Bears.

Anna Kenyon '16, Schulman and Lauren Berestecky '17 were each named to the all-tournament team, while Bridget Instrum '16 was named the tournament's Most Outstanding Player.

Women's Hockey Stuns Reigning NESCAC Champs

By Ethan Brady
Staff Writer

The Middlebury Panthers got their season off to a strong start with a 3-1 record. The team beat NESCAC rival Trinity twice, 5-1 and 2-1, on opening weekend, then hosted the Panther/Cardinal Classic this past weekend, where they fell to second-ranked Elmira College 3-1 and defeated Wisconsin-Stevens Point 3-1. Maddie Winslow '18 led the way for the Panthers, tallying two goals and four assists in the four games and garnering NESCAC Player of the Week for her play at the tournament.

On Friday, Middlebury scored three times on the power play on its way to a 5-1 win over Trinity in the NESCAC season opener. Middlebury was slow to find its groove in the first minutes of play, as Trinity took a 1-0 lead 3:43 into the game on a power play goal from the right point. The women soon found their momentum with a power play goal of their own. Carly Watson's '17 shot from the left point, though blocked, was put home for a rebound by Katie Mandigo '16. The Panthers struck again with the extra attacker at 11:22, taking a 2-1 lead with a goal by Elizabeth Wulf '18.

Leading 2-1 in the second period, the Panthers added to their lead when Mandigo finished after a shot from Watson had been saved, and Kelly Sherman '17 added one on a breakaway.

Julia Wardwell '16 found the goal 5:00 into the third period to score Middlebury's

third power play goal of the night and seal a 5-1 victory for the Panthers.

The next day, the Panthers again defeated the Trinity Bantams with a score of 2-1.

Just as in the previous night, Trinity took an early 1-0 lead in contest. Melissa Maffeo's initial shot was blocked before Shelby Labe jumped on the rebound and scored to put her team ahead.

Winslow answered for Middlebury in the second period, shooting a wrist to the top left corner of the net.

The game appeared to be heading into overtime when Wulf broke free from a pack behind the net and gained some space. She quickly fed Anna Van Kula '16 in front, who sent a shot into the back of the net for the game-winning tally with only 47 seconds remaining in regulation.

This past weekend, the Panthers hosted the Panther/Cardinal Classic in Kenyon Arena. On Friday night, they fell to second-ranked Elmira by the score of 3-1 after leading midway through the second period.

The Panthers took the 1-0 lead when Wulf one-timed a shot from the slot on the power play into the back of the net at the 16:38 mark in the first period.

Elmira tied the game with an extra attacker 12:48 into the second period. The Panthers went on the power play at the 7:36 mark, with their best chance coming when Mandigo's shot hit the pipe.

Elmira took a 2-1 lead with less than nine minutes remaining in the third period with

a snipe of a shot into the top-right corner of the net, and the Panthers were unable to answer the goal despite a power play opportunity less than a minute later.

The Soaring Eagles gained some breathing room as the power play expired when the puck bounced off the stick of a Middlebury defender, leaving a race down the ice. Watson knocked the puck away, but the aggressive Soaring Eagles slipped the puck into the goal.

Following an Elmira timeout with 3:22 left, the Panthers pulled Dreher, but were unable to close the gap as Elmira took home the win.

"While we had a disappointing loss on Friday night, we felt good about how we played," Mandigo said. "We competed all over the ice, and although we had a few breakdowns, overall we played well."

On Sunday, the Panthers redeemed themselves with a 3-1 victory over Wisconsin-Stevens Point (5-4-1) during the final game of the Panther/Cardinal Classic in Kenyon Arena.

Middlebury got on the board first at 4:13 when Jessica Young '18 stuffed home a pass from Janka Hlinka '18. Only 22 seconds later, the Pointers came right back and tied the game at 1.

Two minutes into the second period, Winslow dug the puck out of the corner, skated to the goal and sent a cross to Shanna Hickman '19, who scored her first career goal.

The Panthers added an insurance goal on

the power play in the third period when Winslow sent her wrist shot to the far side of the net, securing a 3-1 win for her team.

"We had a good weekend battling some of the top teams in the country," Mandigo said. "We have a young team, but everything is coming together nicely. We have high expectations for ourselves, but most importantly we are willing to put the hard work in for the outcomes that we want."

With its pair of wins against conference rival Trinity, Middlebury sits atop the NESCAC, tied with Amherst at 2-0. The Panthers return to the ice this weekend for a two-game homestand against Connecticut College (0-2) on Friday and Saturday, Dec. 4-5.

BY THE NUMB3RS

17 Years since the field hockey team last won the NCAA championship.

Number of times that safety Dan Pierce '16 has been a CoSIDA Academic All-American - the only Middlebury athlete to have done so. **2**

18 Points per game for Matt St. Amour '17 in six games for the men's basketball team.

Place for Abigail Nadler '19 at the women's cross country national championships. **24**

1:55.38 Isabel Wyrer '18's time in the 200 free, good for a victory by almost two seconds.

Swim Teams Dive into Beginning of Season

By Emily Bustard
Sports Editor

Men's and women's swimming and diving started their season on Saturday, Nov. 21, hosting Connecticut College and Tufts at the Middlebury Natatorium.

While both the men and women lost to Connecticut College (152-128 and 152-136, respectively), and the Panther men sustained a 176-112 loss to Tufts, the Middlebury women edged Tufts 151-149.

Isabel Wyrer '18 started the season off strong, winning the 200 free by nearly two seconds with a time of 1:55.38, and the 500 free, clocking 5:07.56. Close behind Wyrer in the 500 free, Alaina Pribis '19 5:22.21 earned her a third place spot.

Co-Captain Megan Griffin '16 got second place in the 100 fly (1:00.15), and Lucy Scott '16 placed third in the 500 free (10:55.87).

Sarah Bartholomae '18 and Katie Corrigan '19's times of 1:03.01 and 1:03.06 in the 100 back took both third and fourth place for the Panthers, and co-Captain Maddie Pierce '16 placed third in the 200 back (2:16.46), before Caroline Kelly '16, who finished fourth (2:16.86).

Middlebury showed strength in their relays. Wyrer (back), Liza MacCowan '19 (breast), Griffin (fly) and Morgan Burke '16

(free) won the 200 medley relay (1:49.94), and Griffin, Burke, Stephanie Andrews '18 and Wyrer touched the wall just .21 seconds behind Conn. College in the 200 free relay (1:39.82).

Head Coach Bob Rueppel differentiated the program's strategies for the men and the women.

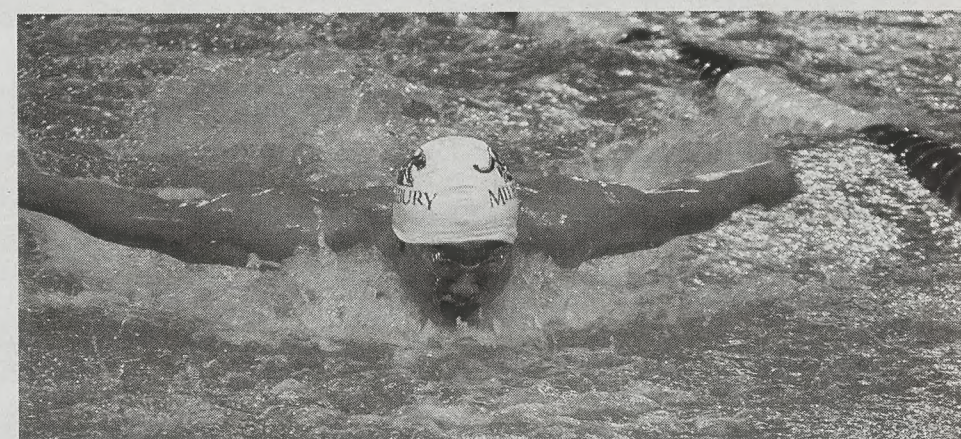
"On the women's side we're hoping to build off of last season's success: getting further along not only in the conference but on the national level," Rueppel said. "One of my goals coming in [for the men is] to have a real solid foundation in the program."

So despite the team's overall losses, the eight different men's swimmers who scored big in events throughout the meet helped set the versatile foundation that Rueppel talked about.

Stephan Koenigsberger '16 and Bryan Cheuk '16 touched the wall first in individual events: the 100 breast (59.01) and 50 free (22.10), respectively.

In the 50 free, Jack McLaughlin '18 placed second (22.24) behind Cheuk, and Taylor Moore '18 touched the wall fifth with a time of 22.44 to clinch three of the top five spots for the Panthers.

Co-Captain Paul Lagasse '16 finished second in the 100 free (48.80), while Connor McCormick '18 got second in the 200



RACHEL FRANK

Byran Cheuk '16 competed in the 100 fly, finishing sixth with a time of 54.36 seconds as the highest scoring Panther swimming in the event.

breaststroke (2:14.33).

Michael McGean '17 did well in long-distance events, placing third in the 500 free (4:48.20) and second in the 1000 free (9:51.71).

Cheuk, Brendan Leech '19, McLaughlin and Lagasse each swam a leg in the 200 free relay to earn the Panthers' final victory of the day (1:27.24). Their splits of 22.12, 22.08, 21.62 and 21.42 respectively all came close to Cheuk's winning time of 22.10 in the

individual 50 free.

Meanwhile, first-year Will Greene '19 placed first in the 1-meter (217.28) and second in the 3-meter (201.60) events in his first performance as a Middlebury diver. Elissa DeNunzio '18 earned 182.00 points in the 1-meter diving competition and 208.20 in the 3-meter to take second in both events.

Amherst will host Middlebury this Saturday, Dec. 5 for what ought to be another fast meet.

Men's Hockey Opens Season with Mixed Results

By Andrew Rigas
Sports Editor

The Middlebury men's hockey team opened its new season, and the Neil Sinclair coaching era, by defeating Colby 4-0 and tying Bowdoin 4-4 on Nov. 21 and 22. The following weekend, Nov. 27-28, the Panthers fell to Plattsburgh St. 5-4 and Connecticut College 1-0 in the PrimeLink Great Northern ShootOut.

Against Bowdoin in the season and NESCAC opener, the teams looked even in the first period until Panther defenseman Terrence Goguen '16 scored off a faceoff win by Evan Neugold '16 with 5:19 remaining.

The Panthers added to their lead 11:21 into the second period during Colby's power play. Verrier circled behind his net to set up another Colby attack off of a Middlebury clearance, but misplayed it. Vincent Gisonti '18 beat everyone down the ice and wrapped the puck into the empty net.

"[Vinny's goal] really sparked us," Neugold said. "After that, we really controlled the tempo of the game."

Colby did have several chances to score in the first two periods, but Panther netminder Stephen Klein '18 was stout all night, saving 28 shots — 26 of which came in the first two periods. The Panthers also successfully killed three Colby power plays in the second period.

Middlebury dominated the third period, outshooting Colby 15-2 and scoring twice more to secure the four-goal victory. Neugold assisted on both goals: first feeding Jake Charles '16, last season's leading scorer, for Charles' first goal of the season, and then setting up Spencer Cage '19's first career goal.

The 1-0 Panthers came out hot against Bowdoin the next day, building a 4-1 lead in the first period, but the Polar Bears came back in the third period to tie the game.

Just 4:12 into the contest, Brendan McGovern skated down the right side and beat Polar Bear goalie Peter Cronin.

After Bowdoin tied the game at one, Haggerty put the Panthers back in front with a shot to the top left corner off a feed from Braeden Quast '18. Gisonti and McGovern made it a three goal lead by the end of the first period with their second goals of the season.

In the second period, Mike Sullivan took one off the Polar Bears' three goal deficit when he created some space for himself and snuck a wrist shot past Klein.

Off the opening faceoff of the third period, Spencer Antunez scored just seven seconds in, making it a one goal game. With 8:45 left in the period, Bowdoin's Matt Rubinoff tied the game at four on a shot from the left circle.

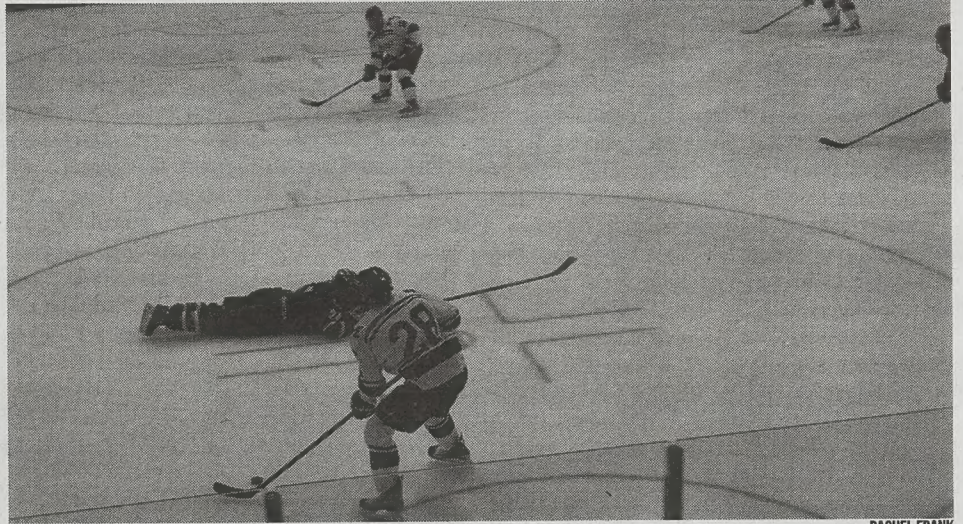
"Unfortunately, we stopped playing the way we had the first 40 minutes of the game and they capitalized on a couple of mistakes," Neugold said.

With a tie score, both teams had one power play, but neither could convert the man-up advantage into a game-winning goal. Klein and Nathan Colannino, who came on in Bowdoin's net for Cronin, made several saves to keep the score at 4-4 and force overtime. Klein saved 29 of 33 shots on the day, while Colaninno stopped all 21 shots in his direction.

The best chance for either side in overtime came in the closing moments, when Cody Tedesco fired a shot that Klein made a blocker save on. The puck landed in front of the net and all skaters closed on it, but Klein came away with it and the referee blew the play dead to end the game in a tie.

The schedule didn't get any easier over Thanksgiving break, as Middlebury traveled to Northfield, VT to play number two in the nation Plattsburgh St. in the first round of the PrimeLink Great Northern ShootOut hosted by Norwich, falling 5-4 in a back-and-forth contest.

The Panthers scored first again against the Cardinals on Friday, Nov. 27, and did so quickly; Charles notched his second goal of the year just 39 seconds in. Plattsburgh



RACHEL FRANK

Middlebury couldn't seal the deal against Bowdoin, ending the game in a 4-4 tie.

responded less than four minutes later, but Middlebury regained the lead on Matt Doherty '19's first career goal less than two minutes later. The Cardinals responded with two goals from Jesse Neher and Cole Stallard to take a one-goal lead into the first break.

The game seemed to be slipping away from the Panthers in the second period, when Plattsburgh extended its lead to two by converting a Middlebury turnover.

However, the game was far from over; 5:02 into the third period, Neugold sent a shot into the top corner of the net on a Middlebury power play, and Gisonti scored his third goal in as many games with just under seven minutes remaining in regulation to knot the game at four.

With a little over five minutes left in regulation, the Cardinals' Matt Quilty put the Panthers away for good on a power play goal, giving the Cardinals the 5-4 victory and ending the Panthers' comeback attempt.

"I'm really proud of the way we competed and the effort that all the guys gave,"

Neugold said. "We didn't get the win but we know we can play with the best teams in the nation."

The loss pitted Middlebury against Connecticut College in the ShootOut consolation game the following day, and after two periods of scoreless play, the Panthers were defeated 1-0.

Liam Moorfield-Yee '16, making his first start of the year in net for Middlebury, and Camel goalie Tom Conlin turned away 16 and 18 shots, respectively, in the first 40 minutes.

With 8:25 remaining in the third period, Jake Giordano beat the Panther defense and dished the puck off to Joe Birmingham for the first and only goal of the contest.

This loss to Conn. College brought Middlebury to 1-2-1 on the season. However, since the tournament game did not count in the conference, the Panthers still have a 1-0-1 NESCAC record.

Men's hockey will travel to Conn. College on Friday, Dec. 4 for a chance to avenge their loss and then on to Tufts on Saturday, Dec. 5.

Women's Basketball Unbeaten in Opening Stretch

By Alex Deutsch
Staff Writer

The Middlebury women's basketball team has had quite the hot start thus far in the season. Going undefeated in the month of November, the team has beaten Oneonta State (60-38) on Friday, Nov. 20, Hartwick College (61-58) on Nov. 21 and Johnson State (57-52) on Tuesday, Nov. 24. The Panthers have relied on their underclassmen's talent to win games in the absence of captain and most senior leader, Elizabeth Knox '17, who is injured and hoping to return to the courts in January.

Middlebury began the season at the Holiday Inn Classic at SUNY Oneonta where they played the host. The Panthers

ended the first quarter with a 14-9 lead, and did not look back.

Oneonta only hit 14 of their attempted 75 shots (18.7 percent shooting), and grabbed 40 rebounds while Middlebury shot an impressive 41.7 percent from the field, going 25-60. The Panthers also grabbed 58 rebounds. Point guard Sarah Kaufman '18 led Middlebury's scoring effort, sinking 23 points total in the game. Catherine Harrison '19 also helped seal the win in her impressive college debut: she knotted her first career double-double, scoring 12 points and grabbing 15 boards.

One day later, the team carried this momentum into their matchup against Hartwick College. Middlebury emerged

victorious from the constant back-and-forth that ended with a score of 61-58.

Harrison was the high scorer of the game, with 20 points and 9 rebounds, while Colleen Caveney '19 had 12 points and went 6-7 from the field. Kaufman again scored in double-digits, racking up ten points total. Middlebury continued their shooting success going 24-50 from the field (48 percent).

Three days later on Tuesday, Nov. 24, the Panthers embarked on another road trip to face their local rival, Johnson State (JSU). Middlebury won what proved to be another close contest 57-52.

JSU cut Middlebury's lead down to two with just under a minute remaining. However, the Panthers hit three foul

shots and a layup to seal a five-point win. Kaufman led Middlebury again in scoring with 18 points, while Harrison scored 12. Eileen Daley '18 scored five and recorded a career-high of 13 rebounds.

After a very promising start to her Middlebury career, Harrison — who averages 16.0 points and 12.0 rebounds per game, and shot an 82.4 percentage from the floor (14-17) — was named the NESCAC Player of the Week.

The Panthers will begin to rev up their out-of-conference schedule as they face Skidmore on the road this Saturday, December 5th at 2 p.m. before NESCAC competition begins after the New Year.

EDITORS' PICKS



ANDREW RIGAS (20-15, .571)



ALEX MORRIS (79-76, .510)



EMILY BUSTARD (50-55, .476)



JOE MACDONALD (73-83, .468)

Can men's hockey avenge their loss @ Conn College on Friday, Dec. 4?

YES
The Panthers outshot Conn last game, they just couldn't score. They will this time.

YES
Christmas is so close I can taste the peppermint mocha and hear Mariah Carey.

YES
I think they'll win, especially since this game will actually count towards the NESCAC standings.

NO
I don't like this matchup on the road for the boys.

NBA pick'em: Who wins, LeBron's current team or his former team (Cavs @ Heat)?

HEAT
Pat Riley has assembled yet another good team, this time without LeBron.

CAVS
Something about hometown glory.

CAVS
They have LeBron James.

CAVS
Gimme more Dellavedova. Kid is a winner.

Can women's basketball continue its undefeated start @ Skidmore on Saturday, Dec. 5?

NO
Skidmore beat Hartwick by 17 and Midd only beat them by 3.

YES
If they beat them last year, they can most definitely do it this year.

YES
Winning streaks seem to be a trend this year for Middlebury Athletics.

YES
Common opponents mean nothing, Rigas. Read a book.

CFB pick'em: Who wins the Big Ten Championship Game (No. 4 Iowa v. No. 5 Michigan St.)?

MICHIGAN ST.
I just think they're the better team.

MICHIGAN ST.
My friend from U. Michigan would be so ashamed of this pick.

IOWA
Their mascot is named Herky the Hawk, which is great.

IOWA
Michigan St. shouldn't be in this game. They needed the biggest miracle play of all time to beat Michigan.

AGAINST ALL ODDS

MIDDLEBURY FIELD HOCKEY WINS FIRST NATIONAL CHAMPIONSHIP SINCE 1998



COURTESY MIDDLEBURY ATHLETICS

After losing its only two games of the regular season to Bowdoin, the third-ranked Middlebury field hockey team won its second ever NCAA title after defeating the Polar Bears 1-0 in the champion game on Sunday, Nov. 22 in Lexington, VA. See page 18 for full coverage.

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